



Kentucky Board of Architects



Jill Lewis Smith, AIA,
NCARB, President of
Board of Architects

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Kind leadership is often called "ethical" leadership. Cultivating kindness, both internally and in interactions with others, can lead to greater fulfillment and achievement in various aspects of life, including career and personal relationships.

1. Building Strong Relationships:

Kindness builds trust, positive relationships with colleagues, clients, and customers.
Kindness creates better collaboration, stronger teams, and more opportunities for growth.
A positive work environment improves motivation, engagement, and retention.

2. Enhancing Leadership:

Kind leaders create a positive and productive atmosphere, where employees feel valued and motivated.
Kindness creates higher job performance, increased efficiency, and greater customer satisfaction.
Empathy and compassion in leadership inspires others to be their best selves.

3. Promoting Personal Well-being:

Acts of kindness boosts feelings of confidence, happiness, and optimism.
Kindness increases well-being, life satisfaction, and reduces stress.
Engaging in acts of kindness releases endorphins, creating a "helper's high."

4. Fostering Creativity and Productivity:

Kindness leads to more resilience, creativity, and productivity.
A positive and supportive work environment, cultivated by kindness, encourages innovative thinking and problem-solving.

Please continue on Page 2



SUMMER 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message Continued.....	2
NCARB Annual Meeting Highlights.....	3
BOA January Board Meeting	4
Studio Jesse James	5
Studio Jesse James Cont.	6
New Architects and CIDs.....	7
NCIDQ	8
Architect News.....	9
Professional Enrichment	10
Executive Coaching.....	11
Announcements.....	12

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOA Offices Closed
Friday, July 4th

BOA QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 22, 2025

BOA Offices Closed for Labor Day
Monday, September 1, 2025

ASPIRE-AIA
Asheville, NC
September 14-16, 2025

AIA Kentucky/AIA Indiana Convention
Lexington, KY
September 18-19, 2025

AIA Women's Leadership Summit
Atlanta, GA
November 3-5, 2025

CIDQ Annual Business Meeting
Denver, CO
November 6-8, 2025

NCARB Regional Summit
Oklahoma City, OK
March 19-21, 2026

President's Message Continued from Page 1

5. Building a Positive Brand:

In business, kindness builds a strong personal brand, making individuals more approachable, dependable, and trustworthy.

This creates stronger relationships, a positive work environment, and a powerful personal brand.

By prioritizing kindness, individuals create a reputation for being ethical and responsible, which is highly valued by consumers and investors.

This kindness idea is backed up by research from Joe Folkman, a psychometrician based in the United States. He studied the 360-degree feedback ratings of more than 50,000 leaders and found the leaders rated by their staff as more likeable also tended to be rated highly on effectiveness. Scoring low on likeability and high on effectiveness is extremely rare with only a one-in-2000 chance of it happening. Folkman also found that the businesses with likeable leaders scored higher on a full range of positive outcomes, including profitability and customer satisfaction.

Architecture and Interior Design can be brutal professions, yet the most successful in our fields are kind. We are taught to berate and depredate one another as opponents. The architecture school process of juries and final pin ups with angry ill-informed adults picking young students work apart is commonplace. As professionals we can cross ethical lines when pursuing work. Love thy neighbor is not exclusive to religion, it is the secret to success.

Kindest Regards,
Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB

**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 40507 or Email the form to BOA.KYC@ky.gov

Architect or CID's Name: _____
Last First Middle Suffix

License No.: _____ Certificate No.: _____ CID Last 4 Digits of Your S.S. No.: _____

THIS IS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR: ☐ BUSINESS ☐ HOME ☐ BOTH

PREFERRED CONTACT LOCATION: ☐ Business ☐ Residential

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

Firm 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: _____
(Licensee or Certificate Holder Only)

NOTE: In accordance with applicable Kentucky Statutes and Administrative Regulations it is the licensee's and/or certificate holder's responsibility to notify the Board office of any change of home and/or business addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses or employment within thirty (30) days of the change. Failure to do so may result in an administrative fee to the individual.

RETURN THE COMPLETED CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM TO
KENTUCKY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS, 155 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 300, LEXINGTON, KY 40507 or BOA.KYC@ky.gov
Created by Board of Architects Page 1 of 1 Change of Address Form 2023

Click the form for a PDF version

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 \(ky.gov\)](http://BOA(ky.gov)).

2025 NCARB ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Scottsdale Arizona, June 19-21, 2025



Pictured from the left: Joseph Nolasco, Board Secretary; Addison Lowry, Board Counsel, McBrayer LLC; Olivia Davis, Board Treasurer; Jill Lewis Smith, Board President; Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director.

Kentucky was well represented with several Board members in attendance as well as our Board Executive Director and the attorney who regularly represents the board.

Four resolutions were passed. Two Resolutions, the NCARB reciprocal agreements for certificate holders with Canada, and with South Africa passed. All NCARB references to “foreign” architects will be changed to “international” architects. The forth resolution adjusts the amount of time a new licensee must wait to receive a NCARB certificate if they are in good standing. All such licensees will enjoy the same ability to immediately apply for an NCARB certificate upon licensure. Each of these passed with overwhelming support.

The incoming NCARB Officers will be as follows: President, Ed Marley, Vice President John Rademacher, 2nd Vice President Sylvia Kwan, and Secretary Treasurer Miguel Rodriguez. Ken Van Tine will move into the role of immediate past president. Rounding out the 2025 – 2026 NCARB Board of Directors will be a director representing each of the 6 regions, one public board member, one member board executive, and 2 at large directors.

There was much discussion, participatory sessions, and review of the process to update and renew the Architecture Registration Exams, as well as bring forth additional assessment methods for competency. We will share more information as this becomes available. The R&D committee is entering their third year working on this and should complete this work this year. It is important to understand the ARE has been redeveloped and updated many times to stay current. It is essential we continue to update and modernize the way in which we assess competency.



Board Counsel, Addison Lowry, reporting out at Workshop Session 2: Preparing for Regulatory Change and Advocacy.

NCARB



Board members pictured from the left: Joseph Nolasco, Secretary; Olivia Davis, Treasurer; Jill Lewis Smith, President; Rex Cecil.



KY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

APRIL BOARD MEETING



APRIL 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Kentucky Board of Architects' quarterly meeting was held in Lexington on April 22, 2025. In attendance were Board members Jill Smith, President; Olivia Davis, Public Board Member/Treasurer; Jeffery Johnson, Ex Officio; and Board members Sydney Goetz, Rex Cecil, and Chad Beyer. Also in attendance were staff, Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director; Yolanda Costner, Staff Assistant; Rachael McClain, Ex.

Administrative Secretary; Addison Lowery, Board Counsel, McBrayer PLLC.; Christopher Bowling, AIA Kentucky President-Elect; Kelly Ives, AIA Executive Vice President; Taylor-Beth Huff, Tarina Henry, Lydia Schneider, Ashlee Taylor, Eniola Olaleye, UK College of Design students; board member not present: Joey Nolasco, Secretary.

Reports and Presentations:

The meeting agenda included standard reports from board members. In the absence of the Board Secretary, Joey Nolasco, President Smith presented the meeting minutes. Ms. Davis provided the year-to-date financial statements for FY2025.

Ms. Harbut presented the interim report, noting a milestone: for the first time, the state of Kentucky has over 3,000 registered architects. Mr. Bowling reported that AIA's summer code seminars will take place in July, with participants eligible to earn six HSW Continuing Education Units (CEUs). He also announced that the AIA Kentucky/AIA Indiana Chapter Conference will be held in Lexington on September 18-19.

National Committees:

A. Licensure Research and Development Task Force

For the benefit of guests, Ms. Davis provided an overview of the NCARB Licensure Research and Development Task Force, established nearly three years ago. She explained that the Task Force worked in parallel with the Competency Task Force, which defined 16 core architectural competencies.

The R&D Task Force examined global licensing practices in architecture and other professions, with a focus on reducing barriers and offering multiple paths to licensure. Working with psychometricians—experts in assessment—they concluded that assessing each competency would require more than one evaluation method.

B. NCARB Regional Meeting

Ms. Harbut reported on the NCARB Member Board Executive (MBE) regional meeting held in Pittsburgh. A key topic of discussion was the growing concern among jurisdictions about illegal use of professional seals ("stamp stealing") and strategies to prevent it.

Ms. Goetz and Ms. Smith, who also attended the meeting, shared their observations about the wide variation in procedures among states, despite similarities in structure.

New Business:

House Bill 6

Ms. Lowery reviewed House Bill 6 and its potential impact on the Board's ability to promulgate new administrative regulations. Under HB 6, the Board must certify that any new regulation falls within one of six qualifying categories. Legal counsel does not foresee any difficulty in meeting these requirements, given the Board's statutory authority.

NCARB Annual Business Meeting

The Board voted in favor of all proposed draft resolutions and also cast votes for candidates running for officer positions on the NCARB Board of Directors.

CIDQ Proposed Resolution 2025

Mr. Beyer presented the proposed bylaw changes. The Board voted to accept all recommended amendments.

Continuing Education Audit

The Board voted to conduct a continuing education (CE) audit on a percentage of architects following the conclusion of the FY2026 renewal period.

Committee Reports:

Investigative Review Committee

The Board voted to fine two architects: one for misrepresenting information on a license application, and another for submitting plans that included mechanical and electrical system designs outside the scope of incidental architectural practice. Additionally, the Board assigned an investigator to a case involving the alleged fraudulent use of a licensed architect's stamp and signature on design documents.

Use of Architectural Titles by Unlicensed Individuals

To ensure compliance with Kentucky regulations, the Board voted to distribute a survey seeking suggestions for appropriate professional titles for unlicensed individuals working in the architectural field.



BOARD AGENDA

APRIL 22, 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. NCARB FY25 Regional Meeting
9. New Business
10. Standing Committee Reports
 - Licensure & Certification
 - Investigative Review
 - UK CoD Report
 - Statutes and Regulations
 - Continuing Education
 - AXP/IPAL Report
 - CIDQ Report
 - Financial Report
 - Newsletter Committee
11. Old Business
 - Licensing Tool Update
 - 2023-2024 UK Endowment Report
 - Alternative Paths to Licensure Ad-Hoc Committee Report
12. Adjournment

Next Board Meeting

July 22, 2025

Lexington, KY



Pictured above are Board Members, AIA Ex. VP & UK Students at the April board meeting.

STUDIO JESSE JAMES



Jesse Voigt and James Johnson, Owners of Studio Jesse James

Studio Jesse James, in Lexington, Kentucky, is the creative endeavor of the husband-and-wife team Jesse Voigt and James Johnson. Their firm seamlessly blends architecture, art, and craftsmanship, reflecting their diverse backgrounds and shared passion for thoughtful design. Jesse Voigt, a Colorado native, earned a bachelor's degree in environmental design from the University of Colorado and a master's in architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she was honored as the graduate valedictorian. Her professional career includes working with renowned architect Frank Gehry, contributing to projects like the Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy Museum in Paris and the Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi. Kentucky licensed architect James Johnson, of Lexington, graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in architecture from the College of Design at the University of Kentucky. He brings a hands-on approach to design, emphasizing the importance of material integrity and craftsmanship.

The couple met in Los Angeles around 2010, drawn together by mutual interest in architecture and the arts. Their collaborative synergy led to the founding of Studio Jesse James in 2015, aiming to merge their architectural expertise with artistic endeavors.

Operating from their Lexington studio, Jesse and James have cultivated a space that not only produces bespoke designs but also engages with the local community through art and sustainable practices. Their work has been recognized in publications such as LD+A, Surface, Wallpaper, Eater, and Metropolis, as well as the New American Paintings highlighting their influence in both architectural and artistic circles. *The photos were submitted by the firm.*



On page 6, an interview with Jesse Voigt and James Johnson.



- **What were the first steps you took to get your firm off the ground?**

Ultimately you have to take that leap of faith to decide to do your own design work, which will come about in different ways for different people. For us it was about being true to ourselves and who we were as designers and exploring all avenues. When you are just starting out you take on a lot of odd jobs, but we ultimately would take these jobs and wrap it back into our overall design aesthetic, e.g., if we designed a restaurant, we would then ask what else could we do? Well we could fabricate, we could produce artwork, we could landscape, we could graphic design etc. etc. We always try to Bauhaus, encompass everything. We aren't the best marketers of who we are, we often joke we are a "best kept secret" because we are horrible when it comes to marketing and social media, but we ultimately have found that as long as we are true to ourselves, that clients would return to us or reference us, so our work primarily comes from word of mouth.

- **How do you balance your relationship and your business partnership?**

We are just lucky that we get along so well. We were friends for many years before we decided to be in a relationship, both personally and professionally, and we understood each other's strengths and weaknesses. One of us is better at one thing and one of us is better at another thing, and we sort of just step out of the way in regards to these items, or sometimes we really get in each other's way to try and push for a better product/project. We also have a very similar aesthetic so it helps when we begin any design as we both inherently trust each other's design aesthetic, which allows us to be creatively free to explore further. Owning a business together has taken a lot of the stress off of worrying about doing it by one's self, which can be intimidating, as you prop each other up in the good and the bad times.

- **What is your shared design philosophy?**

To listen to your gut, and create something that you would want to live in or own. More than anything, we don't chase what is believed to be "hip" or "current"...styles come and go, we believe in a certain aesthetic and if our client is on board with this aesthetic then it makes for a cohesive design journey. Staying curious and experimenting with things helps a lot too.

- **How do your individual strengths complement each other?**

We sort of puzzle piece together our strengths, one of us focuses on the overall macrocosm of it all (how the business is run, how the project is run, how the design comes about), and the other focuses more on the microcosm (how does it fit together, what are some complications that may arise from this design, what are some details that may improve the project more)? One of the things that helps us above anything else, is a constant dialogue about what we are doing, and why we are doing it? We talk all the time.

- **Can you describe a project that best represents your combined vision?**

We did a restaurant called Hayden Cafe in Los Angeles many years ago, which was nestled within Tom Dixon's design showroom. Jesse ultimately designed the entirety of the space and oversaw project management, and James came in to fabricate the wood pieces, one of which was a featured spine wall that held over a hundred bottles of wine. Everything from design conception to final implementation was thought of.

- **What advice would you give other couples thinking of going into business together?**

If you can travel in a car for 10 hours and talk none stop about a shared desire, in our case, design, then you are already on a good foot. You really have to want to be around that individual, and have the same mindset, and desire to want to be in it for the long haul. Owning a business is an incredibly challenging venture, its feast or famine, you are either doing really well one year, or not at all the next, and more than likely you are probably just breaking even. You have to be able to roll with the punches and adapt to circumstances. In our case, since we are a jack of all trades type of design firm, if one area dips, we just lean into another avenue, if that avenue is also not working, we learn a new trade. It's a constant evolution of different design avenues, you have to have a design philosophy that allows you to be flexible. For instance, we get a lot of architecture inquiries from Los Angeles, but we get barely any from Kentucky, as the value and input of an architect is viewed differently here than there, yet our pottery and our fabrication installations have gone up more here than in LA. So you just have to sort of lean into your market and see what you can do there. Lastly, you have to generally enjoy what you are doing, if your goal is to make a bunch of money as a designer, you probably are not going to enjoy this venture. Measuring success for us, is to be able to work on things that interest us, it may not be lucrative, but we are our own bosses, we set our own pace, and we stay true to who we are. So people just generally have to find what motivates them to keep them engaged and interested so it doesn't become a slog or a disappointment.

- **What is your favorite fun thing to do together in Kentucky?**

Drive around neighborhoods and judge people's landscape, whoa the boxwoods and wintercreeper. Ha, no really, we are avid hikers who care about the natural ecosystem of Kentucky.



NEW LICENSED KENTUCKY ARCHITECTS

LICENSE	ARCHITECT	EDUCATION	EMPLOYER
9311	Christopher Wilson	Bachelor of Architecture University of Kentucky	Gray AES Lexington KY
9312	Bridgette Ferguson	Bachelor of Architecture Academy of Art University San Francisco CA	Wescott Construction Louisville KY
9315	Jane Foote	Master of Architecture University of Kentucky	Stengel Hill Architects Louisville KY
9346	Karim Kabariti	Bachelor of Architecture Oklahoma State University	Mason & Hanger Lexington KY
9355	Matthew Aaron Nett	Master of Architecture University of Kentucky	GBBN Architects Louisville KY
9359	Caoimhin Joseph Conway	Bachelor of Architecture Queens University Belfast, UK	Schmidt Associates Louisville KY

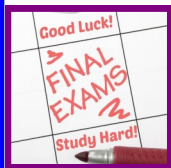
NEWLY CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

CID NO.	CID	EDUCATION	EMPLOYER
0426CID	Sara Jean Dement	Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design Texas Tech. University	Dement Designs Dallas TX
0427CID	Richard Skyler Williams	Bachelor of Fine Arts University of Louisville	Lockett & Farley Louisville KY



NCIDQ

In 2026, NCIDQ will implement **new exam blueprints**. The exams will be based on the tasks and associated knowledge areas of design that pertain to health, safety and welfare (HSW), as noted below:



IDFX—Programming & Conceptual Design and Schematic Design

IDPX—Construction Administration and Project Management

IDIX (formerly PRAC)—Design Development and Construction Documentation.

Please be advised that BOMA will **no longer** be tested on exams beginning in 2026 or beyond. BOMA methods of calculation related to interior design are more specialized and mostly apply in the leasing world. The new exam blueprint will continue to cite knowledge of square footage standards.

To review the Question and Answer sheet regarding the new exam changes, please visit the CIDQ website at [NCIDQ EXAMS | Studying for the Exams](#).



Certified Interior Designers

A reminder that if you currently hold an active *Kentucky Certified Interior Designer Certificate*, the renewal window for the 2026 fiscal year will begin **September 1, 2025** and will close on November 30, 2025.

The renewal fee is **\$200**. Renewals submitted after November 30, 2025 will be administratively revoked.

Renewals should be submitted online at boa.ky.gov beginning **September 1, 2025**. For questions pertaining to your Kentucky Certified Interior Designer Certificate, please contact our office via email at boa.irc@ky.gov or call us directly at (859) 246-2069.

If you are not currently certified in Kentucky this is a reminder that in accordance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes, specifically KRS 323.402, "No person shall use the title "Certified Interior Designer", the letters CID, or any acronym, abbreviation or title that would imply certification under this chapter unless the person at the time holds a valid certificate to use the title "Certified Interior Designer" in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as established under KRS 323.400 to 323.416 and 323.992.

ARCHITECT NEWS

ARCHITECT LICENSE RENEWAL PERIOD



The architect renewal period for Fiscal Year 2026 opened on June 1, 2025. The annual renewal fee is a \$125. Renewals can be complete online, starting June 1st by clicking the, "[Online License Renewal](#)" link on the [BOA website](#). For questions pertaining to your Kentucky Architect License, please contact our office via email at boa.irc@ky.gov or call us directly at (859) 246-2069.

Please be advised that after June 30, there will be a late fee of \$25 starting July 1-31, and then in August the late fee will increase to \$50. The architect portal will close at *midnight on August 30*.

If you do **not** renew, voluntarily surrender your license, or apply for and receive emeritus status by August 30, 2025, your license will be administratively revoked, effective **August 31, 2025**.

Architect Continuing Education Calendar Year 2025

Twelve Continuing Education Hours (CEH) are required as a condition for the annual license renewal. 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 (2024).

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\(3\)](#).



Is a license required before starting a project in Kentucky?



Except as otherwise provided in **KRS 323.031** or **KRS 323.033**, no person shall practice architecture in the Commonwealth of Kentucky without first obtaining a license under the provisions of KRS 323, its purpose being to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public. Further, only persons licensed under KRS 323 may be styled or known as architects in Kentucky, or use any words or letters or assume any titles or description tending to convey the impression that they are architects. This would include erroneous references in proposals or marketing efforts.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

- John Quincy Adams, the sixth President of the United States

Professional Enrichment

MASTER/JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The **Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.** of Indiana/Kentucky Chapter are offering continuing education on Master/Journeyman Electrical classes. The focus of the class is discussion of the most recent changes to the National Electrical Code which varies from residential and commercial to industrial.

*All classes will be held on Saturday.

*The cost of the Saturday class is \$70.00.

*Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and class sessions will be 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Lunch will be provided for all classes.

Participants may sign up for the classes by contacting **Holly Baker at (270)792-1128** or via email at holly@abcindianakentucky.org. Louisville classes will be held at 1810 Taylor Avenue. Lexington classes will be held at 157 Venture Court.

LOUISVILLE CLASSES

July 26

August 23

September 27

LEXINGTON CLASSES

July 12

August 9

September 13

AIA Women's Leadership Summit Atlanta Georgia November 3-5, 2025

Network and learn from an extraordinary lineup of renowned speakers, trailblazing leaders, and industry experts who will share path-breaking ideas to tackle challenges and lead change. Don't miss high-impact programming, networking, education, community, and inspiration designed to change the workplace experience and help create gender equity for women in AEC.

[Women's Leadership Summit](#)



Aspire provides an opportunity for architects, planners, and design professionals to network and discuss critical issues related to design, architectural resilience, business, and industry innovations on **September 14-16**, in Asheville, NC. For more information: [About Aspire by AIA South Atlantic Region](#)



2025 AIA KY | AIA IN CONVENTION

Driving innovation & excellence in architectural practice

SEPTEMBER 18TH & 19TH - LEXINGTON, KY

presented by:
JQOL
QUALITY OF LIFE™

Join the Kentucky and Indiana architects at the 2025 AIA Kentucky/Indiana Convention in Lexington, KY. This year's theme: **MOMENTUM: Driving innovation and excellence in architectural practice** is presented by our incredible partners at **JQOL**.

[2025 AIA KY | AIA IN Fall Convention in Lexington – AIA](#)



EXECUTIVE LIFE COACH

Purpose of having a Professional Life Coach for Architects and Interior Designers

A professional life coach helps architects and certified interior designers navigate the complex intersection of creativity, business, and personal fulfillment. The purpose of coaching in these fields includes the following:

Clarifying Career Goals and Vision

Coaches help design professionals define what success looks like for them—whether that means running their own firm, achieving work-life balance, or mastering a niche in sustainable or luxury design.

Managing Stress and Burnout

With tight deadlines, client demands, and intense creative pressure, architects and designers often face burnout. A coach provides tools to manage stress, maintain energy, and sustain creativity.

Enhancing Time and Project Management

Professionals in these fields often juggle multiple projects. Coaches help streamline priorities, set boundaries, and create systems that boost productivity without sacrificing creativity.

Improving Communication and Leadership Skills

From client presentations to managing teams, strong interpersonal skills are key. Coaching builds confidence, conflict resolution, and leadership capabilities.

Navigating Career Transitions or Business Growth

Whether shifting from employee to firm owner, taking on bigger projects, or considering a teaching role, a coach offers guidance to move forward with clarity and purpose.

Strengthening Confidence and Decision-Making

Design decisions and professional growth often come with second-guessing. Coaching supports professionals in trusting their expertise and instincts.

Personal Alignment and Fulfillment

Ultimately, coaching helps align professional goals with personal values—ensuring that their work feels meaningful, not just successful on paper.

Kentucky Board of Architects member Joey Nolasco, owner of Integrity Architecture, PLLC, has found having a life coach to be very beneficial. "Having a professional life coach has been invaluable in my journey as an architect and business leader. I've been fortunate to have both a longtime mentor who guided me through personal and professional challenges and a paid coach from PSMJ who provided targeted guidance on strategic business goals and technical leadership skills. Coaching, whether informal or structured, supports growth, resilience, and clarity. It offers peace of mind, a sense of security in decision-making, and an essential outside perspective. These interactions have provided not just guidance but also validation and confidence, helping me navigate my career with greater purpose and direction."

The Kentucky Small Business Development Center offers business coaching. To learn more about their programs, please contact them directly at [Consulting – Kentucky SBDC](#).

Announcements

There's No Business



Like A Small Business

25 SMALL BUSINESS TIPS

1. Socialize Where Your Target Clients Do
2. Seek a Mentor
3. Start Small and Bootstrap
4. Spruce Up Your Small Home Office Instead
5. Enter Architectural Design Competitions
6. Make Arrangements with the Local Government or Architects Board to Hold Meet-the-Public Q&A
7. Revisit Old Clients
8. Take the Initial Small Projects Seriously
9. Market Where Local Homeowners Need
10. Prepared to Take on Some Interior Design Work
11. Partner with Established Firms
12. Start with Online Freelancing
13. Name Your New Firm Appropriately
14. Make Sure Your Domain Name is Available
15. Make a Website for Your Firm
16. Invest in Quality Photography
17. Buy a Laptop with a Larger Screen
18. Partner with Drafting Technicians and 3D Rendering Experts
19. Familiarize Yourself with Local Regulations
20. Set Achievable Milestones for Growth
21. Do Not Invest in Expensive Equipment. Yet.
22. Keep Custom-Printed Stationery to a Minimum
23. Do Not Splash Money on an Expensive Car
24. Avoid Borrowing Money When Possible
25. Always Strive to Save Costs for Your Clients

To review the article in its entirety, please see the website at [25 Tips for Architect Firm Startups \(Vital for Success!\) – Architecture](#)



2025 AIA KENTUCKY BOARD NOMINATIONS

The position of **Secretary** for 2026 will be open, with preference given to a Central Kentucky Chapter member to maintain geographic balance on the Executive Committee. This is a one-year term that traditionally leads to ongoing service in subsequent years as Treasurer, President-Elect and then President of AIA Kentucky.

ALSO SEEKING a [Young Architects Representative](#) to serve a two-year term on the AIA Kentucky Board, for the 2026-27 calendar years and also represents Kentucky on the National Associates Committee. Members interested in either position should submit a letter of interest to Nominating Committee Chairman, [Ben Barlage, AIA](#) no later than **Friday, July 25**. If you have questions, contact Kelly Ives at kives@aiaky.org.



BOARD MEMBERS

Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB
President

Joseph Nolasco, AIA, CID
Secretary

Olivia Davis
Public Member/Treasurer

Jeffrey Johnson, AIA
Ex-Officio

Chad Beyer, CID, NCIDQ, LEED AP
Member

T. Rexford Cecil, NCARB
Member

Sydney Goetz, AIA, MHA
Member

STAFF

Cordelia Harbut
Executive Director

Rachael McClain
Ex. Administrative Secretary

Yolanda Costner
Staff Assistant

COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

Donna Rabbitt-Murphy
Donald Petrella
Michael Scanlan

HOW TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT

Any person may file with the Board, a claim of unprofessional conduct, negligence, incompetence, dishonest practice, or other misconduct against an architect or certified interior designer. Any person may file a complaint against an unlicensed individual for a single act of unauthorized or illegal practice or representing himself or herself to the public as an architect or certified interior designer. *Click on the form to the left for a pdf version.*

If you have any questions please contact the BOA office at 859-246-2069 or email BOA.IRC@ky.gov.