



KENTUCKY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

WINTER 2026

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BOA QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 27, 2026

**BOA Offices Closed for
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day**
Monday, January 19, 2026

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

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

As we welcome a new year, I hope each of you found time over the holidays to rest and reconnect with family, friends, and colleagues. Each new year should always be a reminder of the privilege and responsibility we carry as design professionals, and 2026 is already shaping up to be an important year for our profession.

This Board remains focused on its core mission: *protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare*. This commitment is at the center of every board discussion, whether related to licensure, continuing education, or professional practice. As the national conversation around licensure pathways continues to evolve, we are actively studying models that could broaden access to the profession while strengthening our oversight of those who practice in the Commonwealth.

Protecting the role of the architect through strong statutes and collaborative partnerships with NCARB, AIA Kentucky, and other national organizations remains vital. Several members of our Board are serving on national committees that are shaping the direction of licensure at the highest levels, and their work continues to bring valuable insight back to Kentucky.

We will also continue our focus on protecting the architectural seal and ensuring its proper and lawful use. Maintaining trust in the stamp is fundamental to protecting the public, and we remain committed to monitoring and enforcing its responsible application.

Education and professional development also remain priorities for 2026. The Board has assembled a comprehensive list of opportunities for architects and Certified Interior Designers to pursue CE, leadership, and technical training. With major updates to the Kentucky Building Code anticipated in 2026–2027, we will continue to share information from DHBC and other authorities having jurisdiction to help practitioners stay ahead of upcoming changes.

Finally, I am pleased to share that Governor Beshear has appointed **Kevin Gough**, AIA, to the Kentucky Board of Architects, filling the seat previously held by Franklin Gray. Kevin's term extends through February 9, 2028, and we look forward to the valuable perspective he will bring to the Board.

We are entering 2026 with momentum, purpose, and a clear vision. I am grateful for the professionalism and dedication of our design community and excited for the work ahead as we continue to protect the public and strengthen the future of architecture in Kentucky.



Joey P. Nolasco
AIA, CID
BOA President

Joey Nolasco
President, Kentucky Board of Architects & CID





KY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

OCTOBER 2025 BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Location: Gray Design Building, UK College of Design

Date & Time: October 21, 2025, 9:00 AM EST

Call-to-Order: Joey Nolasco, AIA, CID, BOA President

Attendance: 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. Staff: Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director; Rachael McClain, Ex. Admin. Secretary; Yolanda Costner, Admin. Assistant, and Kara Legg, Attorney, McBrayer PLLC. Guest: Kelly Ives, Executive VP, AIA KY; Emily White, Integrity Architecture; DeTroy Price, Integrity Architecture; Allyson Smith Hughes, Civic Consultants.

The board meeting minutes will reflect the following reports were given during the October board meeting: Minutes, Financial Report, and Interim Report.

AIA KY Update: Ms. Kelly Ives gave a brief report on AIA KY regarding advocacy and the AIA KY Indiana convention. She also highlighted that they had awarded a total of \$4,000 in grant money, offered to 16 architectural exam candidates this year.

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 the part of the focus of the NCARB Regional Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Software to Prevent Stamp Stealing: Ms. Harbut gave an overview of an online presentation she attended of a software designed to prevent the theft of seals. The software is designed by an Ohio plan examiner. Based on the requirements to use the software, most jurisdictions that reviewed it believed a regulation change would be required to use the software in their state. It was recommended the statutes and regulations committee review the potential of using software to verify an architect's seal in Kentucky.

Architect In Training (AIT) Title: The California governor has recently signed a new law to allow the regulation of the title "Architect in Training". A candidate for licensure is allowed to apply for the title with the Board of Architects when they have passed at least one division of the ARE, and they are under the direct supervision of a licensed architect. It was recommended the Statutes and Regulations Committee review the regulation.

KRS 323.230 Architect Title Review: Counsel Legg reviewed the statutes associated with title protection and presented her legal interpretation to the Board. She advised that the statutes are clear and straightforward: an individual licensed in another jurisdiction cannot use the title, or any words, letters, titles, or descriptions that imply they are an architect in Kentucky without being licensed in the state regardless of whether they are practicing or not. KRS Chapter 13A disallows an internal policy to modify or expand a statute or administrative regulation and would be unenforceable. Members of the Board inquired how other states handled non-practicing architects using the title architect bidding on a job or out-of-state guest lecturers. She said she would review the positions of NCARB and other jurisdictions on the issue.

BOARD AGENDA OCTOBER 21, 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
 - Software Review
 - AIT Title Review
 - KRS 323.230 Review
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. Review of CE Audit
12. Adjournment

Next Board Meeting

January 27, 2026
In Frankfort, KY

BOA OCTOBER 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

FY 2026 Standing Board Committees Reports:

Licensure, Certification Committee (L&C): Mr. Nolasco, Committee Chair, reported on each of the eight architects applications requesting reciprocity with Kentucky, that the committee reviewed. The Board voted to approve each of these applications. He also gave a report on eleven architects renewing their license that had deficiencies during renewal. All had made up their deficiency but one. The Board approved all submissions and had a letter sent to the noncompliant architect.

Investigative Review Committee (IRC): Mr. Johnson, Chair, reported on the IRC's open cases. The Board voted to close three cases, dismiss one, fine one, and send cease and desist letters to two.

University of Kentucky : College of Design (CoD): Mr. Johnson reported the first half of the semester had gone well. They currently have 85 undergraduates studying architect and 27 in the master's program.

AXP/ IPAL and IDEP Committee : Mr. Johnson reported that Bruce Swetnam, a UK School of Architecture faculty member and NCARB/AXP representative had recently attended the NCARB/AXP leadership summit in July. NCARB sent a survey to the schools pertaining to curriculum and competencies in May or June; however, the results of the survey have not yet been published.

NCIDQ Committee: Mr. Beyer stated there are currently 208 Kentucky NCIDQ certificate holders but only 170 active KY CID's. He will attend the November NCIDQ Annual Meeting in Denver.

Newsletter Committee: Ms. Harbut gave a report on the potential articles to appear in the upcoming newsletter.

Continuing Education Audit - Board members reviewed the submitted documentation of the random CE audit and made recommendations on whether to accept or deny the HSW CEs that were submitted.

Old Business The Alternative Paths to Licensure Ad-hoc Committee presented their findings to the Board in a report. Mr. Nolasco posed a question to the Board asking for direction and next steps after giving an overview of the report. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed, the committee should continue to do research. Ms. Smith also said she would obtain a copy Iowa's related proposed regulations and review it with the Statutes and Regulations Committee.

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



NCIDQ: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

DENVER, COLORADO

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2025

CIDQ Advances the Interior Design Profession at Annual Meeting

*M. Chad Beyer CID, NCIDQ, LEED AP, GPCP,
President, Principal Designer, i5 design group, inc.*

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) held its Annual Meeting in Denver, November 6–8, bringing together practitioners, educators, regulators, and industry partners from across North America. Denver’s vibrant design community provided a fitting backdrop for conversations centered on professional standards, emerging technologies, and public awareness of the value credentialed interior designers bring to our built environment.

A Focus on Professional Excellence

Over three days, attendees participated in sessions focused on the evolution of the NCIDQ Examination and its ongoing role in protecting health, safety, and welfare. Much of the discussion centered on keeping the exam aligned with current practice, ensuring fairness and accessibility, and supporting designers as the industry continues to shift.

Representing Kentucky, Board of Architecture Board Member **Chad Beyer** and Executive Director **Cordelia Harbut** joined regulatory staff, board delegates, and representatives from several allied design organizations. CIDQ President **Siavash Mandai** and CEO **Rebecca Moden** opened the meeting with a welcome and a brief update on CIDQ initiatives from the past year.

Keynote: Designing Neuroinclusive Spaces

This year’s keynote—**Designing Neuroinclusive Spaces**—was delivered by **Kay Sargent**, Senior Principal and Director of Workplace at HOK. Her presentation was both informative and surprisingly honest about the gaps that still exist in our understanding of neurodiversity in the built environment. Kay reminded the group that roughly **one in five people** identify as neurodivergent. She challenged designers and regulators to rethink how spaces support sensory processing and cognitive well-being, offering practical (and sometimes sobering) examples of why this matters in everyday practice.

For those interested in digging deeper, HOK’s resource can be found here:

<https://www.hok.com/ideas/publications/hok-designing-a-neurodiverse-workplace/>

Friday’s sessions covered a wide range of operational, regulatory, and practice-related topics.

CIDQ Strategic Plan Update

Leadership shared updates on exam development, volunteer engagement, and long-term planning—steady, thoughtful work that doesn’t always make headlines but continues to shape the quality and credibility of the NCIDQ Exam.

Louis Tregre Award Presentation

Felice Silverman, FIIDA, NCIDQ, LEED AP ID+C, WELL AP, EDAC, was recognized as the 2025 recipient of the Louis Tregre Award. Felice has been certified since 1993 and has contributed to CIDQ through roles including:

- NCIDQ Ambassador (2015–2021)
- Practice Analysis Task Force (2019)
- CIDQ/NCARB Competency Evaluation Workgroup (2020–2021)
- Tregre Award Committee (2023)

Her longstanding service reflects exactly what the award is meant to honor.

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NCIDQ: ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

ICOR Sessions: A Closer Look at Interprofessional Collaboration

A major highlight this year was the programming from the **Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR)**. These sessions drew significant interest, in part because they address a reality many boards are navigating: the growing overlap and interdependence among design professions.

ICOR CEO Panel

CEOs from ICOR organizations discussed emerging regulatory trends and areas where shared leadership is becoming increasingly important. Themes included:

- Cross-disciplinary clarity around protecting public health and safety
- The need for more consistent regulatory language across jurisdictions

Where scope of practice overlaps—and where it doesn't. The conversation felt candid and constructive, which attendees seemed to appreciate.

Practice Overlap Task Force Update

The Task Force shared its research on where interior designers, architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects intersect in practice. The goal isn't to blur scopes but to bring clarity to regulators, practitioners, and the public. The work is ongoing, but its direction appears thoughtful and grounded in real-world practice.

Other sessions throughout the meeting covered:

- New item types for the NCIDQ Exam
- Global perspectives on interior design regulation
- How the NCIDQ exam itself is created

The realities and rewards of CIDQ Board service, breakout groups for Member Board Executives and Board Members provided time for state-specific questions and shared challenges.

The 2025 CIDQ Annual Meeting offered a mix of practical updates, challenging conversations, and a meaningful look at where the profession is heading. From Kay Sargent's call to take neuroinclusion seriously to the ongoing work of ICOR, the meeting made clear that regulation—and the professions it serves—are evolving. What stood out most was the collective sense of responsibility. CIDQ, its partners, and its member boards are not only responding to industry changes—they're helping shape what responsible, competent interior design practice looks like in the years ahead.



Pictured above: Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director of Board of Architects; and Chad Beyer, KY BOA Board member.



Board Member Chad Beyer and Keynote Speaker: Kay Sargent, Director of Thought Leadership, Interiors, HOK



ICOR CEO's share insights on the value of collaboration and mutual learning.

From left to right: Rebecca Moden, CEO, CIDQ; Matt Miller, CEO, CLARB; Davey McDowell, CEO, NCEES; Michael Armstrong, CEO, NCARB and Moderator Siavash Madani, President, CIDQ

NEWLY LICENSED ARCHITECTS

LICENSE No.	Architect Name	Education	Employer
9459	Ryan Littman	Texas A&M University Master of Architecture	Quinn Evans Washington DC
9469	Samantha J White	Mississippi State University Bachelor of Architecture	Schmidt Associates Louisville KY
9495	A. Oliver Hidalgo	University of Kentucky Master of Architecture	Employment Information Unavailable
9497	Matthew Simmons	University of Washington Master of Architecture	Mason & Hanger Lexington KY

★ ★ ★ *Congratulations* ★ ★

NEWLY CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

CID No.	CID Name	Education	Employer
0428CID	Dara Lynn Johnson	Ball State University Bachelor of Arts	DKN Architects Louisville KY
0429CID	Stacey R Wiseman	University of KY Bachelor of Architecture	Treanor Lexington KY
0430CID	Emily T Byrge	University of KY Masters of Architecture	REB Architects, PLLC Nicholasville KY

KENTUCKY BUILDING CODE CHANGES

Winnie Blythe

Assistant Director II

**Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction
Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet**



The Department of Housing, Buildings, and Construction has established two task force groups, made up of architects, engineers, and other construction trade groups, that are reviewing the 2024 International Building Code (IBC) and 2024 International Residential Code (IRC) with intent to amend and adopt the updated building and residential codes, replacing the current 2018 Kentucky Building Code and 2018 Kentucky Residential Code (based on the 2015 IBC/IRC).

Implementation of these next code editions will hopefully be completed by the end of 2026 or early 2027 with a mandatory enforcement date of mid to end 2027.

A project in the planning phase at that time would generally be reviewed for compliance under the applicable code edition at the time of submittal unless a request is made to the building official for an extension due to lengthy design timeline. Kentucky will also build in a grace period of 6 months prior to the mandatory enforcement date wherein a design professional may select the edition they prefer.

The transition from the 2015 I-Codes to the 2024 I-Codes represents a meaningful shift in design parameters, material standards and resilience expectations. The Division of Building Code Enforcement and the Code Administrators Association of Kentucky expect to offer multiple classes over the next 2 years that will help the design community and building officials understand the significant changes that may impact building design.

New and notable in the 2024 IBC- many changes are clarifications and administrative updates as well as amendments that keep up with new products and technologies. You will notice the addition of requirements for tornado design loads, lithium-ion battery production and storage, EV charging stations, and heavy timber construction type sub-categories which would allow larger and taller wood framed buildings. There are also additional clarifications on occupied roof design and notably the occupant load factor for business use changes from 100 to 150 square feet per person.

The intangible benefits in resilience, clarity and long-term reliability are significant and we are excited to see this monumental task of code review, editing, amending, and ultimately adoption cross the finish line.

For more information or concerns, please contact Winnie Blythe, Assistant Director II, Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, of the Public Protection Cabinet at Winnie.blythe@ky.gov.

Purpose of Attending Conferences & Workshops

Attending conferences and workshops is a strategic move for Kentucky architects and certified interior designers who want to stay competitive, inspired, and connected. These events offer far more than continuing education—they're gateways to professional growth, creative innovation, and business development.

1. Stay Current with Industry Trends

Learn about emerging materials, technologies, and design philosophies.

Discover updates in building codes, sustainability standards, and preservation practices—especially relevant in Kentucky's historic and rural contexts.

2. Earn Continuing Education Credits

Maintain licensure and certifications through accredited sessions.

Fulfill AIA and NCIDQ requirements while gaining practical knowledge.

3. Network with Peers and Collaborators

Build relationships with fellow designers, architects, contractors, and vendors.

Find new collaborators for grant-funded projects, such as Kentucky's Historic Preservation initiatives.

4. Showcase Your Work

Present case studies or participate in design competitions.

Gain visibility and recognition within the regional and national design community.

5. Explore Business & Marketing Strategies

Attend sessions on branding, client acquisition, and digital marketing.

Learn how to position your firm in Kentucky's evolving market—from urban revitalization to rural development.

6. Access Exclusive Resources

Preview new products, software, and services from vendors.

Receive early insights into grant opportunities, like those offered by the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Kentucky's design professionals thrive when they stay engaged. Whether it's the AIA Kentucky Trade Fair, IDCKY workshops, or national expos, these events are more than dates on a calendar—they're investments in your future!

CID CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

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 [201 KAR 19:445](#)

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\(3\)](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EVENT	HOST	DATE	REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Louisville Build, Renovate & Landscape Expo Louisville, Ky	Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, Ky	January 16–18, 2026	Focus on home improvement, renovation, landscape — useful for interior designers, architects interested in residential/renovation. Louisville Show: Build, Renovate & Landscape Expo L&L shows January
2026 KNLA Green Industry Winter Conference Louisville, Ky	Kentucky Nursery & Landscape Association	January 28-29, 2026	Includes “Presentations w/ CEU Hours” for landscape architects; designers/architects doing site/landscape work may benefit. Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association - 2026 KNLA Green Industry Winter Conference
2026 Winter Training School – Producer Member, KYTC & Affiliates Louisville, Ky	Plantmix Asphalt Industry of Kentucky	Feb 4-6, 2026 – Louisville, KY	Open to architects/engineers/consultants. 2026 Winter Training School Registration - Producer Member, KYTC, & Affiliates - Plantmix Asphalt Industry of Kentucky
AIA Leadership Summit 2026 Washington, DC	AIA Washington, DC	February 11–14, 2026	AIA Leadership Summit 2026 The American Institute of Architects
2026 KY Turf & Landscape Management Short Course Elizabethtown, KY	Kentucky Horticulture Council Elizabethtown, KY	February 17-19, 2026	2026 KY Turf & Landscape Management Short Course – Kentucky Horticulture Council
University of Kentucky Design Career Fair Lexington, KY	Department of Landscape Architecture and College of Design Lexington, KY	February 20, 2026	2026 Design Career Fair Landscape Architecture
AAAE/ACC Airport Planning, Design, & Construction Symposium Indianapolis, IN	American Association of Airport Executives	March 4-6, 2026	For architects/designers working in the Architecture/Engineering/Construction space AAAE/ACC Airport Planning, Design, & Construction Symposium
NCARB MBE Workshop Oklahoma City, OK	NCARB Oklahoma City, OK	March 19, 2026	Let's Go Further NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
NCARB Regional Summit Oklahoma City, OK	NCARB Oklahoma City, OK	March 20-21, 2026	Let's Go Further NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
Central Kentucky Home Show Lexington, KY	Market Place Events Central Bank Center, Lexington	April 10–12, 2026	Strong for interior designers of materials, furnishings, finishes. Official Central Kentucky Home Show April 10-12, 2026 Central Bank Center
NCARB Annual Business Meeting Minneapolis, MN	NCARB Minneapolis, MN	June 25-27, 2026	Let's Go Further NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
Kentucky State Fire School Lexington, KY	Fire Academy of Kentucky	June 10-14, 2026	Useful especially for architects dealing with building code, fire life safety, and facility planning. 2026 Kentucky State Fire School - Save The Date! KCTCS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.

For more info : [CEU Courses — ABC Indiana/Kentucky](#)

<u>LOUISVILLE CLASSES</u>	<u>LEXINGTON CLASSES</u>
January 24	January 10
February 21	February 7
March 28	March 14

Architect Continuing Education For Calendar Year 2026

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.

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\(3\)](#).

NCARB TRAINING: [Publications: Ce Courses](#)

CID Calendar Year 2026 CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS

During the period beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, a minimum of twelve (12) hours of continuing education are required.

Eight (8) shall be 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, please review [201 KAR 19:445](#)

MENTORING EMERGING DESIGNERS & ARCHITECTS

For ARE study groups, prep sessions, and discounted study materials contact your nearest Kentucky Chapter.

[AIA Central Kentucky](#)

PO Box 701092
Louisville, KY 40270-1092

[AIA East Kentucky, a section of AIA Kentucky](#)

PO Box 911128
Lexington, KY 40591-1128

[AIA Kentucky](#)

PO BOX 911128
Lexington, KY 40591-1128

[AIA Northern Kentucky, a section of AIA Kentucky](#)

PO Box 911128
Lexington, KY 40591-1128

Need some guidance along the path to licensure? Find a local architect licensing advisor who can help you! [Find Your Licensing Advisor](#) | [NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)

Name	City	JDX	Apptd.	Type	Org.	Email
George Donkor	Lexington	KY	No	Firm	Gray AE, P.S.C.	gdonkor@grayae.com
George Donkor	Lexington	KY	Yes	AIA Component	AIA Kentucky	gdonkor@grayae.com
Bruce Swetnam		KY	Yes	School	University of Kentucky	bruce.swetnam@uky.edu

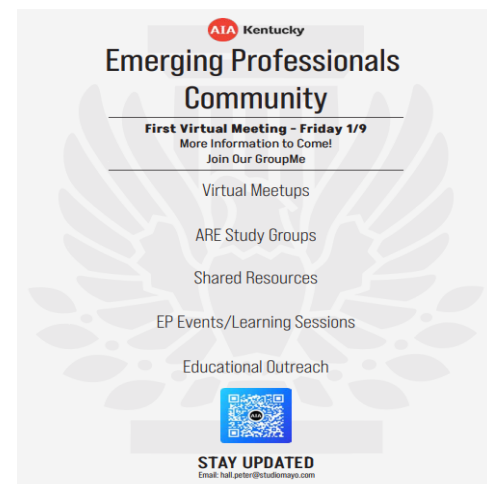
AIA LEGISLATIVE DAY IN FRANKFORT

Tuesday, February 24

Architects, Interior Designers, and Design Students play a vital role in shaping communities and our profession must have a strong voice. Armed with key talking points and advice from our lobbyists, members will meet directly with legislators, ensuring our voices are heard on critical industry issues.

A complimentary breakfast and issues briefing in the Capitol Annex Cafeteria from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Then scheduled meetings with your legislators will follow.

To register: [Personal Information - 2026 AIA KY / IIDA Legislative Day](#)



Federal Redefinition of “Professional Degrees” Excludes Architecture — What It Means for Future Licensees

The U.S. Department of Education has introduced a new federal student-loan policy, set to take effect on **July 1, 2026**, that significantly changes borrowing limits for graduate students. Under this policy, the Department has created a narrow list of programs classified as “professional degrees” that will be eligible for the highest federal loan limits. **Architecture was not included on this list.**

As a result, students pursuing graduate architecture degrees — such as the NAAB-accredited Master of Architecture (M. Arch), which is a standard pathway to licensure — will no longer qualify for the higher “professional degree” borrowing caps. Instead, these students will fall under the lower general graduate limits. This change has the potential to affect affordability, access, and the overall pipeline of future licensed architects entering the profession.

For prospective architecture students in Kentucky, reduced federal borrowing power could make it more difficult to finance required graduate education. This shift may disproportionately impact students without substantial financial resources, including those from rural communities, first-generation college students, and underrepresented groups — ultimately affecting the diversity and availability of future professionals serving Kentucky’s built environment.

The Department of Education’s rule is not yet final. A **public comment period is expected in early 2026**, during which individuals, institutions, and professional organizations may provide input urging the Department to recognize architecture as a professional, licensure-based field requiring extensive advanced education.

The Kentucky Board of Architects and Certified Interior Designers encourages educators, practitioners, students, and community stakeholders to monitor this issue closely. We will continue to share updates and opportunities for public engagement as more details become available.

For students currently planning their graduate education, we recommend consulting with financial-aid advisors early and exploring alternative funding sources, including scholarships, assistantships, and state-based programs.

The Board remains committed to supporting a strong, diverse, and well-prepared pipeline of future licensed architects and certified interior designers in the Commonwealth.



AIA is also actively responding to a new federal student loan policy that omits architecture from the list of professional degrees for student loan caps. See what’s happening, why it matters, and what it means for you in the AIA’s latest.

[Federal “Professional Degree” Definition Excludes Architecture — Member Briefing | The American Institute of Architects](#)



ARE REMINDERS

If you're planning to take an online-proctored division of the ARE:

A mandatory **free “test-run”** via the PSI platform must be completed before each online-proctored division (including whenever your setup changes). The purpose is to ensure your computer, internet, operating system, applications and testing environment meet requirements. NCARB will *not* issue a refund if you fail to complete the test-run and then encounter tech or environmental issues.

- Schedule and complete the free setup “test run” **before** exam day (especially if you've changed computers, OS, or workspace).
- Thoroughly verify your hardware, OS, browser, internet connection, room environment and PSI's secure browser compatibility.
- Clear your testing space of non-allowed items and ensure lighting and background are acceptable.
- Understand that if your system fails on exam day due to your setup, the exam fee may be forfeited.
- Book your slot early and choose a stable computer/environment you will not change.

If you encounter technical issues during the online-proctored exam, NCARB's prior guidance still applies: you must file an incident report with the proctor, then contact NCARB (within 15 days of the appointment) for review. If the issue is due to your setup, you may not receive a free retake.

[Updates to the ARE Guidelines Clarify Instructions for Online-Proctored Appointments | NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)

We are thrilled to announce that Felice Silverman, FIIDA, NCIDQ, LEED AP ID+C, WELL AP, EDAC, has been honored with the prestigious **Tregre Award for 2025**. This award recognizes individuals who exemplify exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication to advancing the interior design profession.

Felice's career has been defined by her unwavering commitment to design excellence, sustainability, and human-centered environments. Her influence spans decades, inspiring peers and mentoring emerging professionals while championing the transformative power of design.



Please join us in celebrating Felice's remarkable contributions and this well-deserved recognition!

NCARB UPDATES

Big News: NCARB Updates AXP Reporting Rules Starting November 2025

NCARB is making it easier for licensure candidates to get credit for their experience! **November 18, 2025**, the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) will adopted a more flexible reporting system:

- **100% credit** for experience submitted within **one year**
- **75% credit** for experience older than one year—**no time limit**

This replaces the old rule that gave full credit only for experience up to 8 months old and partial credit for up to 5 years. The total required hours (3,740) and the six experience areas remain the same, but the descriptions are being refreshed to better reflect today's architectural practice.

This change is part of NCARB's ongoing effort to make licensure more accessible and aligned with real-world experience. Whether you're just starting out or catching up on past work, this update gives you more flexibility to move forward.

For more information: [The AXP Reporting Requirement Is Changing | NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)

URGENT ATTENTION

On January 15, 2026, NCARB will remove the current three-year waiting period between becoming licensed and receiving eligibility to apply for NCARB certification through the Education Alternative.

Architects without a degree from a NAAB-accredited program can now pursue NCARB certification immediately after licensure, eliminating the previous three-year waiting period. This update supports NCARB's Pathways to Practice initiative, which aims to broaden access to licensure and certification for professionals from diverse educational backgrounds, including those without accredited degrees.

For more information: [NCARB Is Updating the Education Alternative Program, Expanding Access to Licensure Reciprocity | NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)

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.KY@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

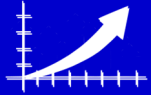
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Cellular: _____ Email: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ SIGNED BY: _____

NOTE: In accordance with applicable Kentucky Statutes and Administrative Regulations it is the licensee 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 40502 or BOA.KY@ky.gov

Kentucky Board of Architects Page 1 of 1 Change of Address Form 2025



Build a Brand to Attract Clients

Attracting new clients today takes more than great work—it requires a strong, consistent brand and smart, intentional marketing. Here are quick strategies to help Kentucky design and architecture professionals stand out.

1. CLARIFY YOUR BRAND

Define what makes you unique. Whether it's historic renovations, modern residential design, or sustainable building practices, make sure your visuals, messaging, and story communicate your specialty clearly and consistently.

2. REFRESH YOUR PORTFOLIO

Your portfolio is your most powerful marketing tool. Use professional photography, highlight project challenges and solutions, and keep the work current. Strong visuals build immediate trust.

3. STRENGTHEN YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

Ensure your website is easy to navigate, showcases your best work, and includes clear service descriptions tailored to Kentucky requirements. Use local SEO terms like “*Kentucky architect*” or “*Lexington interior design*” to boost visibility. Maintain your Google Business Profile for better local search results.

4. USE SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGICALLY

Share project progress, design insights, before/after visuals, and client testimonials. Instagram highlights your aesthetic; LinkedIn helps you build industry relationships with builders, realtors, and community leaders.

5. BUILD LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Networking is vital. Connect with contractors, engineers, realtors, and developers. Attend AIA Kentucky, ASID Kentucky, and local business events. Strong relationships lead to strong referrals.

6. LEVERAGE TESTIMONIALS

Ask for reviews at project completion and feature them online and in proposals. Client voices carry more weight than any marketing statement.

7. STAY VISIBLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Engage in local events, volunteer for nonprofit projects, or speak at educational programs. Visibility builds credibility—and client trust.

For more information on branding:

[Branding for Architects: 7 Proven Strategies for Success](#)

[Interior Design Marketing Tips | Nextdoor](#)

[Top 10 Marketing Strategies for Interior Design - Podium](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REPORTING CONCERNS TO PROTECT ARE EXAMS

ARE Security Tip Line at ARESecurity@ncarb.org.



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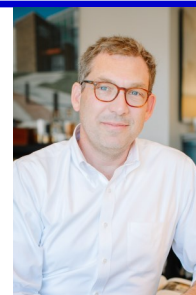
COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

Donna Rabbitt-Murphy
Donald Petrella
Michael Scanlan

The Board is honored to announce that **Kevin Gough, AIA, NCARB** has been appointed to the **Kentucky Board of Architects**. Kevin brings a wealth of professional expertise, leadership, and dedication to advancing the architectural profession across the Commonwealth.

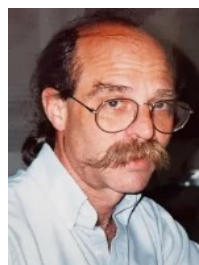
With his distinguished credentials and commitment to excellence in design and practice, Kevin will play a vital role in guiding the Board's mission to uphold the highest standards of architecture in Kentucky. His appointment reflects both his professional achievements and his passion for serving the community.

Please join us in congratulating Kevin on this well-deserved honor and in welcoming him to this important leadership position. He term will expire February 9, 2028



Claud I. "Salty" Emrich III

After a fourteen-year Parkinson's journey, Claud I. "Salty" Emrich III died on September 20, 2025, in Louisville. He graduated from St. X, and the Georgia Tech School of Architecture. After graduation he won the 1970 National Institute for Architectural Education "Paris Prize in Architecture" which included a one-year fellowship to study abroad. When he returned to the U.S., he accepted a position with Arrasmith Judd Rapp Chovan where he worked his entire career, and he retired as Vice President. His expertise was hospitals and health care facilities in general. A few of his designs include Baptist Health Medical Pavilion, Baptist Health Regional Hospital in Corbin, Health Sciences Building at JCTS, Frazier Rehabilitation, and Eastern State Hospital in Lexington. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects. Claud enjoyed renovating buildings there, and with Butchertown Inc. he designed the first new house to be built in Butchertown in decades. He also designed and built a vacation house outside Marengo, Indiana, and re-renovated a farmhouse in Meade County. Claud leaves a wonderful legacy for his wife, Mary Jane Emrich, and their beautiful family.



February 20, 1946 -
September 20, 2025



[Obituary information for Claud I Emrich III](#)



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.