



For Immediate Release

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The Connecticut American Institute of Architects Announces the 2026 Board of Directors

(New Haven, CT, December 2, 2025) The strength of AIA Connecticut lies in the collective expertise and dedication of its Board of Directors and staff. Together, they drive the organization toward continued success. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) proudly announced the appointment of three new Board members and the elected Officers for 2026.

The Officers elected for a one-year term:



F. Michael Ayles, FAIA

Antinozzi Associates, Bridgeport

2026 President

F. Michael Ayles, FAIA is Principal/President of Antinozzi Associates specializing in commercial and institutional design projects throughout Connecticut. For over 30 years, Mike has been a leader at the national, regional, and local levels of AIA, including the AIA Young Architects Forum and several AIA leadership-focused knowledge communities. In addition to his role as an elected official in his hometown, and his service to other professional A/E/C industry organizations, Mike was elevated to the AIA

College of Fellows in 2017. While serving on the Executive Committee of the AIA/CT Board of Directors, Mike also co-chaired the Professional Practice Knowledge Committee.



Amy Samuelson, AIA LEED AP

The S/L/A/M Collaborative, Glastonbury

2027 President- Elect

Amy Samuelson is Principal and Chief Talent Officer at SLAM, leading talent strategy, recruitment, and engagement initiatives across the firm. A licensed architect in six states and LEED AP, she brings 30 years of architectural, leadership, and project management expertise, and is recognized for her people first approach and devotion to design excellence. Previously at SLAM, Amy delivered award winning educational and community projects while mentoring emerging leaders. Most recently, she served as Executive Director

at BL Companies, overseeing architecture and engineering teams. Her contributions have earned numerous accolades, including 2019 Designer of the Year from the Associated General Contractors of Connecticut.



Julia Su Jack, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, PMP
City of Hartford, Architect
Treasurer

Julia Su. Jack, a Howard University graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture, has built a diverse career across the AEC industry, including architecture, interior design, pre-construction management, and project controls. As an Architect for Connecticut's Capital City, her most empowering work was with Capital Workforce Partners and Habitat for Humanity, where she inspired young people, especially women, to explore careers in construction. Julia founded the F50Woman movement to unite and empower women to build character and achieve extraordinary goals and is a member of the Connecticut Architecture Licensing Board.



Dov Feinmesser, AIA
Newman Architects, New Haven
Secretary

Dov Feinmesser is Associate Principal and Director of Sustainability at Newman Architects in New Haven. Dov's work at Newman focuses on firm wide sustainability strategy and implementation in projects, as well managing new builds and renovations of multifamily residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments. Since joining Newman in 2016, he has put into practice his passion for combining professional practice with sustainability and teaching through his work as Adjunct Professor at the Yale School of Architecture and co-chair of the American Institute of Architects Connecticut Chapter COTE. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Ryerson University and a Master of Architecture degree from Yale University.

Elected to a three-year term (2026-2028):



Max Ballardo, AIA
Patriquin Architects, New Haven

Max Ernesto Ballardo brings a strong design and construction background to his architectural work and community involvement. Born in Peru, he came to the US to attend Trinity College, later working as a licensed design-build contractor before earning his Master of Architecture from RISD with a focus on adaptive reuse. Now a licensed architect and project manager at Patriquin Architects, Max works on educational, commercial, historic, and multi-family projects, with strengths in construction detailing and environmental performance. He has served on the AIA CT and NOMAct boards, mentors students, and teaches Architectural Drawing at the University of New Haven.



Marissa Mead, AIA

Svigals + Partners, an FCA Company, New Haven

Marissa Dionne Mead, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP, is a Principal at FCArchitects, and Co-Owner of Atelier Cue, a studio specializing in public art. With 20 years of experience, Marissa typically leads project teams in education, multi-family housing, and public space. She was the lead designer for the nationally recognized New Haven Botanical Garden of Healing, Dedicated to Victims of Gun Violence, as well as the New Britain Beehive Bridge, winner of the Chicago Athenaeum Architecture Award. Marissa previously served on the Executive Board for NOMAct and co-founded Spring Forward, a neighborhood advocacy group for housing choice in Hamden, CT.



Adrienne Nelson, AIA

Pickard Chilton Architects, New Haven

Adrienne Nelson, AIA, is a registered architect and principal with Pickard Chilton, a global architecture studio that designs transformative buildings that deliver value and inspire community. Adrienne has been instrumental in expanding the studio's portfolio into new typologies and advancing its reputation for creating buildings that elevate the public realm. Her projects demonstrate a distinctive approach to placemaking, exemplified by Seattle's 2+U and the dynamic public spaces at Google Cambridge in Kendall Square. She previously served on the AIA CT Board and co-chaired the Women in Architecture and Emerging Professionals Committees. She serves on Iowa State University's Architectural Advisory Committee.



Robert E. Swain, AIA

Amenta Emma Architects, Hartford

Robert is the Managing Principal at Amenta Emma Architects, a 50-person firm with offices in Hartford and Boston, where he leads the firm's financial and administrative operations, and focuses on the planning and architectural development of higher education and secondary school projects. Robert received his Bachelor of Architecture from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and served as the 2023 and 2024 Connecticut Architecture Foundation President. Robert and his wife, Mary Ann, are long-time residents of West Hartford, where they raised their four sons and are active members of the community.

Elected to a one-year term:



Aurora Perreault, AIA
Patriquin Architects, New Haven
2026 Associate Board Member

Aurora Perreault is a recent graduate of the University of Hartford and recently completed her path to licensure. Aurora is currently an Associate at Patriquin Architects located in New Haven, CT, serves as Programs Chair and Secretary of NOMAct. She is active in the AIA CT Emerging Professionals group as well as the EDI Committee. Additionally, Aurora mentors the next generation as a guest Juror at the University of Hartford, and a mentor for the ACE Mentor Program.

The following board members will continue to fulfill their terms as Directors of the Board:

Brian Baril, AIA, *A/Z Corporation*; **Daniel Horowitz AIA**, *University of Hartford*; **Jeremy Jamilkowski, AIA** *Amenta Emma Architects*; and **David O'Connor, AIA**, *Centerbrook Architects & Planners* will continue to fulfill their terms as Directors of the Board.

Marc Andre, AIA, *Marc G. Andre Architects*, remains on the board as Past President as well as **Gina Calabro, Hon. AIACT, NOMA.**, Executive Director/CEO of *AIA Connecticut*.

About AIA Connecticut:

As a valuable resource for architects and the public, AIA Connecticut has a membership of more than 1,500 individuals, including architects, designers, students, and professionals in related fields. We are dedicated to supporting the architectural profession, fostering design excellence, and contributing to societal improvement by prioritizing the quality of the built and natural environments and adhering to the highest standards of practice and a code of ethics.

For more information, visit AIA Connecticut's website at www.aiact.org.