



To those considering applying for elevation to the AIA College of Fellows:

Congratulations on taking your first steps on the Fellowship journey. You are doing your due diligence to explore the opportunity to learn more and decide if you will submit your application for consideration this year. Let's get started!

The path to Fellowship requires self-reflection, personal dedication of time and effort and the support of your peers, mentors and mentees. Sometimes it is not a straight line. I asked current Fellows about their journey, and for many, the process clarified their contributions to our profession, the AEC industry and the communities we serve in holistic and sometimes surprising ways. I hope this discovery process is as meaningful for you as it was for them.

It is an honor to serve my third and final year as a member of this jury and now Chair. We've worked hard to identify a diverse jury across all six Objects, with regional and role diversity, who represent different sizes and types of practice, academia and consultancy. Our role is to celebrate you, but we can only do this to the extent that you help us understand your contributions, from the specific lens of the Object you've chosen to apply under.

Some things to consider as you plan your submission:

- Please carefully read and directly address the application criteria. Study previous exemplar submissions, resources and FAQs. Every year the jury revises these documents to help clarify expectations. Lean into your Component's resources and Fellows who have already been through this process.
- The Object (and sub-Object) you select is critical. Pressure-test this with trusted advisors. Many of us could submit under several Objects and none of us fits squarely in any box. Lean into the intent of your selected Object and the specific criteria identified for a successful submission.
- Your sponsor is so much more than the first recommendation we see. They should be your biggest fan and critic. Sponsors should actively help shape the story you want to tell us. Their title or credentials are less important than the frank feedback they will provide you.
- Diverse references should reinforce your accomplishments aligned with your selected Object. The best write personally and specifically about your influence and impact across geographies and our industry. Like your sponsor, their credentials are less important than how they help us understand and amplify the thesis of your submission.
- We expect to see how your work aligns with AIA priorities, like the [current](#) and [recent](#) strategic plans, [Design Excellence](#) and AIA commitments/ pledges. We want to see a demonstrated understanding and application in your work, not a bunch of icons or a checklist.
- Be kind to the jury. We review many 40-page submissions. Help us clearly and easily find what you think is most important and what we need to know to understand your story. You don't need to "fill the page."
- Please do not contact the jury members.

We cannot wait to learn more about you, your amazing work and the influence and impact you've achieved for the benefit of us all! [Muza Conforti](#) is available to answer questions throughout the application process and understands intimately what elevation requires.

Sincerely,

Julie Hiromoto
FAIA, Living Future Accredited, WELL AP, LEED AP BD+C
Partner | Director of Integration
Chair, 2027 AIA Jury of Fellows