

Information and Application

The Emerging Leaders in Architecture (ELA): An Honors Academy of the **American Institute of Architects Virginia (AIA Virginia)**, develops future leaders in architecture firms, in communities, and in the profession. The goal is to accelerate the growth of emerging architects and provide the tools and experiences needed to advance their careers and serve society as leaders in the community.

The program is designed to:

1. Examine the evolving roles of architects and firms;
2. Expand writing and presentation skills;
3. Consider the fundamental legal, ethical and societal responsibilities of architects;
4. Develop a peer network to serve as an ongoing resource.

It is an intensive program of educational sessions structured around presentations, discussions, team exploration, analysis, consensus-building, collaboration, and case study activities undertaken over the course of a year by participants selected for their potential to be outstanding contributors to the profession and the community. A class project provides participants with a practical opportunity to apply leadership principles from the sessions by completing a real community project with a real client. Benefit gained from the project is directly proportional to the time and energy invested. The class project will require participants to invest a significant number of additional hours beyond the scheduled class time.

Program faculty are established leaders in the building, finance, non-profit, development, university, legal, consulting, and design professions. Each of the seven day-long educational sessions focus on essential strategies or skills such as financial management, presentation and communication skills, negotiating techniques, understanding legal and ethical issues, and public service.

Program Features

Sessions are interactive, drawing on real examples and actively involving participants. They are typically scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd Friday of each month. They rotate among sites in various regions of Virginia in conjunction with the firms, schools, and the local AIA component.

In-person attendance is expected at all sessions.
Tuition is non-refundable and repeated absences may result in being dropped from the program. Travel expenses (except the 1-night hotel in February) are the responsibility of the class member.

2025 Program Outline

Sessions are usually scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd Friday of each month. Dates, locations, and topics subject to change. Sessions are scheduled 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

Inheritance and Inspiration: January, Richmond
The future of architecture and the fundamentals of planning, design, documentation and service in a forward-thinking and fast-changing profession

Class Project Kick-Off Day: February, Norfolk.
Requires overnight stay through Saturday

Practicing Professionalism: March, Alexandria
Ethics and law, from contracts and codes to professional ethics and standards of behavior

Engaging Community: April, Charlottesville
Community involvement, how to engage the community in the design process, professional expectations for social responsibility and public service

Class Project Work Session: May, Norfolk.
Advocacy Virtual Lunch-n-Learn: May, Zoom.

Working Together: June, Norfolk
The role of architects relative to other project stakeholders, including public and private owners, developers, contractors, consultants, political leaders, and allied professionals, including interior designers, suppliers, vendors, manufacturers, etc.

Communicating Effectively: July, Richmond
Business and professional communications including public relations, presentations, writing and professional speaking

Class Project Work Session: August, Norfolk.

Firm Management & Culture: September, Roanoke
Firm leadership, ownership, and transition, business management, financial planning, and business/project financial management standards and firm culture

Leading by Design: October, Norfolk.
The role of mentorship, education, economic development, and politics in nurturing creativity, talent and public interest in the arts and architecture as a means of community identity and expression. This session includes the community presentation.

Conclusion: November
Presentation of class project during Architecture Exchange East, Richmond

“The program identified the missing links that aren’t taught in school.”

– ELA Participant

How to Apply

The committee seeks applicants from three categories:

Component Nominees: Each of the five AIA Virginia local component Boards may nominate one or more individuals for admission to the program. One participant will be selected from each component for a total of five. If interested, please contact your local AIA chapter representative. Each chapter sets their own deadline and application requirements for these positions.

Student Nominees: Any student enrolled in a Virginia Architecture Program (UVA, VT, Hampton, WAAC, or JMU) may apply. A maximum of 2 student participants will be selected each year for the class.

Open Applications Applicants: may apply on their own or be nominated by someone else. The remaining class participants will be selected from among these applicants.

All application materials must be submitted as one PDF (10MB max) and received by Nov. 13, 2024.

Tuition for this program is \$750 for students and \$1,542 for all Associates and Architects.

Your tuition includes registration to ArchEx 2025.

AIA or AIAS membership dues are paid separately.

Travel expenses are not included in tuition.

NOTE: Send no money now. Tuition will be invoiced upon admission to the program.

Send completed application (one PDF) to: dogden@aiava.org

Each applicant must submit an application as one PDF, consisting of the following:

For all applicants:

1. Completed application page (2 pages if you include the demographic questions)
2. One-page resume which should include - education, organizations, community activities, honors and awards.
3. A 500-word essay on the topic below
Discuss the relationship between leadership and architecture and your role in both.
4. One-page with your project/work samples
5. Letter(s) of recommendation

For Component Nominees:

A letter of nomination from the component President or executive officer.

For Students:

A letter of nomination from the Dean or Department Chair.

For Open Applicants:

Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from licensed AIA Virginia Architect members.

6. Additional 250-word narrative if applying for the R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA Scholarship.

Selection

Candidates will be selected in order to achieve a diverse class with preference given to students enrolled in a professional architecture degree program, designers on track to registration, and architects licensed for 10 years or less.

The selection committee strives to compile a class of candidates with leadership potential, unique perspectives, and complementary talents. Submitting your demographic information is optional.

AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture Program Application for Admission

Name: _____

Firm/School: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

Preferred Contact Telephone: _____ Mobile Work

Email: _____

Present Title or Responsibility:

I am a:

Student: Year in School/Program: _____

Component nominee: Component: _____

Open applicant

I am a member of:

AIA Virginia AIAS Member #: _____

Licensure Status:

Licensed since _____ Not Licensed

Education:

Name of School/City: _____

Graduation Date: (Month/year): _____

Tuition Payment:

I will be paying my tuition My firm will be paying my tuition

AIA Component or University will be paying \$_____ of my tuition

(AIA Virginia will send an invoice with a online payment link after acceptance)

All applicants must submit:

1. Completed application form (2 pages if you include the demographic questions.)
2. One-page resume which should include - education, organizations, community activities, honors and awards.
3. A 500-word essay
Discuss the relationship between leadership and architecture and your role in both.
4. One-page of project/work samples
5. Letter(s) of recommendation
For Component Nominees:
A letter of nomination from the component President or executive officer.

For Students:
A letter of nomination from the Dean or Department Chair.

For Open Applicants:
Three letters of recommendation, two of which must be from AIA Virginia Architect members.
6. Financial need narrative (if applying for R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA Scholarship)

I fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements for the AIA Virginia ELA program and agree to fulfill those requirements if selected.

I am a current member in good standing with the AIA Virginia/AIAS and will continue to be a member in good standing for the duration of the program. If I am not a member of AIA Virginia or AIAS, I agree to join and remain in good standing for the duration of the program. Non-refundable tuition is due, in full, prior to the start of the first session. I fully understand the attendance requirements.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I authorize and encourage the above applicant to participate in the AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture Program and fully understand the attendance and tuition requirements as outlined in this application.

Signature of Firm Principal, Dean, or Dept. Chair: _____ Date: _____

Printed/Typed Name and Title: _____

The R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA Scholarship

R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA was in the inaugural ELA class in 2009. Corey has served at local and state AIA components and now is the AIA Senior Vice President, Knowledge & Practice. Corey is a strong believer in increasing diversity in the profession and offering opportunities for all to gain knowledge and advancement in their careers.

In 2022, AIA Virginia established a scholarship in Corey's name to honor his dedication to emerging professionals and provide financial assistance to those interested in participating in the ELA program.

The R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA ELA Scholarship is available to any ELA applicant with financial need, either to cover tuition or travel expenses for their class year. If you would like to be considered for this scholarship, please provide an additional narrative (250 word max.) highlighting your anticipated expenses, your need for support, and how the scholarship would impact your involvement in ELA.



R. Corey Clayborne, FAIA, NOMA

Class of 2009

"When you look back on your career, there will be moments that define your trajectory and impact. The AIA Virginia Emerging Leaders in Architecture program was one of those moments for me. The program exposed me to practice knowledge that I didn't learn in school and would have taken a number of years to be exposed to in a firm."

Apply today at www.aiava.org

Demographic Information (optional)

AIA Virginia is working proactively toward equity and inclusivity in our programming. In an effort to help assess how well we're serving members, we've developed the standard demographic questions below. The following questions are completely optional.

Age range:

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59

I identify my ethnicity as:

(may choose multiple)

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latina/Latino
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- Other

I identify my gender as:

- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary