



## 2025 Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce the elected members of the 2025 Board of Directors joining their colleagues to lead the chapter this year. The elected officers will play a pivotal role in guiding the organization and its advocacy efforts on behalf of its member architects, emerging professionals and the Delaware architecture community.

The complete 2025 AIA Delaware Board of Directors:

- **President:** Robert A. Grove, AIA
- **President-Elect:** Brennon J. Bickel, AIA
- **Vice President:** Tommy Watts, AIA
- **Secretary:** Mark A. Magrino, AIA
- **Treasurer:** Amanda Bouwer, AIA
- **Director:** Christopher M. Bowen, AIA
- **Director:** J. Patrick Fugeman, AIA
- **Director:** Toomas Idnurm, Associate AIA
- **Director:** Robert W. Rollins, AIA
- **Ex Officio:** Nancy Payne

Robert A. Grove, AIA, continues his role as president while Brennon J. Bickel, AIA continues as president-elect. This marks the commencement of a three-year term during which R. Grove, AIA will serve as the president in 2025-26, followed by the role of past president.

Mark A. Magrino, AIA, will continue in the role of secretary while fellow member Amanda Bouwer, AIA continues as treasurer. Newly elected Tommy Watts, AIA, joins the AIA Delaware Board as a vice president.

Additionally, Tommy Watts, AIA, will serve as Delaware's representative to the AIA Strategic Council. The mission of the AIA Strategic Council, a body which advances the profession by informing the AIA Board of Directors of important professional issues and opportunities.

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## Delaware Strategic Councilor Awarded Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellowship

AIA has awarded Toomas R. Idnurm the prestigious Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellowship in recognition of his distinguished service as AIA Delaware's representative on the AIA Strategic Council.

During his three-year term on the Strategic Council, Idnurm collaborated with forward-thinking leaders from across the nation to address critical industry challenges, including climate change, resiliency, equity, diversity and inclusion, member prosperity, housing futures, and the architectural profession's value proposition.

*"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition working with such a visionary group of professionals," said Idnurm. "Our collective efforts to understand the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the architectural*



*and design profession have been truly inspiring. Together, we worked to create a vision for the future Architect."*

--Toomas Idnurm, Associate AIA

A respected figure in the architectural community with over five decades of experience, Idnurm has established himself as a visionary leader within AIA Delaware. His expertise extends beyond traditional architecture, encompassing significant work with Homeland Security in aviation security, as well as notable contributions to the electronics industry and telecommunications sector across the United States.

Throughout his tenure on the Strategic Council, Idnurm remained focused on supporting AIA's mission to inspire and empower architects to improve society and transform the world. His work emphasized advancing community health, safety, and welfare through design and advocacy for lasting solutions in built environments.

The Strategic Council's 2024 AI Study Group, which Idnurm contributed to, highlighted artificial intelligence's transformative potential for architecture, including opportunities for enhanced design efficiency, project management, and climate-responsive solutions, while also addressing ethical concerns such as authorship, bias, and workforce disruption.

[Reach out to Toomas Idnurm, Associate AIA](#)

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# AIA25 Conference on Architecture & Design

## June 4-7, Boston

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### NEWS

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#### **Willard F. Hurd, AIA awarded Distinguished Leadership Award for a Citizen Planner**

Recognizing the dedication and service of a Citizen, working as a volunteer in the field of Planning, that has made a significant contribution to Planning in Delaware.

**Willard F. Hurd, AIA**, began his volunteer service with the City of Newark planning in 2011 as a member of the Design Committee, using his experience as an architect and designer to improve the aesthetic and pedestrian scale qualities of downtown Newark, DE. Mr. Hurd was instrumental in the updating the Design Guidelines for Downtown Newark (3rd Edition 2012).

In 2014, Mr. Hurd was appointed to the City of Newark Planning Commission. In this role, Mr. Hurd's service was instrumental on the Parking Subcommittee that created Comprehensive Parking Plan for downtown Newark that lead zoning code changes that reduced minimum parking requirements.

In 2019, again as part of his service on the Planning Commission, Mr. Hurd served as Chair of the Green Building Code Work Group to produce updated amendments to the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to require increased performance standards in energy conservation and reduce impact of construction.



Also in 2019, Mr. Hurd was appointed Chairmen of the Newark Planning Commission where he was a community leader through the Adoption of the Newark Comprehensive Development Plan V 2.0 (2022), implemented a process for improved public participation, as well as leader in the facilitation of the Newark Charrette (2022), The Newark Transportation Improvement District (2023), and the City's current affordable housing discussion exploring ways through zoning reforms to decrease

barriers to affordable housing development.

[Congratulate Will on his achievement!](#)



## Things I took away from a day at the Tri-State Fusion Conference

By Christine Olshan, Associate AIA

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a transformative workshop led by Morgan Chawaga, AIA President, better known as The Healthy Architect Tri-State Fusion Conference in Hershey, PA. Morgan's innovative approach to combating stress, preventing burnout, and setting boundaries in the architecture industry left a **lasting impression on me** - and I believe it could for you too.

The session was more than just a conversation; it was a call to action. Morgan shared empowering strategies to cultivate a mindful mindset, and her insights were nothing short of eye-opening. The data she presented about stress and burnout in our profession wasn't just surprising - **it was a wake-up call**.

[Continue reading...](#)

## AIA Young Architects Forum Advocacy Committee Volunteer Spotlight

The 2023-2027 Strategic Initiative for the AIA Young Architects Forum is '*Architects in Action, Catalyzing for Change*'. We all are agents of change by volunteering our time with organizations within and outside the AIA. Last year, our first **YAF Volunteer Challenge** highlighted member contributions of over 5,525 volunteer hours to their communities!

**This year, our member Matthew Foley, AIA is in the spotlight!**



Matthew has a genuine passion for mentoring students, dedicating his time and energy to participate in the Downingtown STEM Academy Summer Career Exploration for several years.

This year involved developing a condensed program for public high school students to participate in a three day "internship". The goal is to offer students interested in engineering or design fields an opportunity to see what it is like to work in our profession with site visits, design critiques, project meetings, presentations, and Q&A sessions.

Learn about the [AIA Young Architects Forum](#)

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## CAREER

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### Let's Design a Better World Together

When you join AIA, you're joining a community with global reach—and so much more.

Connect with like-minded professionals through chapters, awards programs, and volunteer opportunities to get inspired by experts and creatives in your field. Level up with educational tools to grow your career and achieve your professional goals. Take advantage of resources to steadily scale your practice and streamline your work. Advocate for yourself, your community, and the world on a whole new platform.

It's more than a membership. It's a calling.

[Join AIA >](#)



JOIN AIA


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### Welcome New Members!

We welcome these new members to our community.

- Lauren DeSimone, Associate AIA
- Meghan Dombroski, Associate AIA
- Emily E. Purdum, AIA
- Keri Morton-Wiedner, AIA

Welcome  
New  
Members!



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### We've Expanded our ABHA Leadership Team!

**ABHA Architects is pleased to announce the promotion of Sean Malloy to principal in the firm.**

Sean joined ABHA in 2011, became a registered architect in 2018, and became an Associate in 2020. He is currently Project Architect for the new Indian River School District Sussex Central High School. Previous projects include the Claymont Elementary School renovation, Dover High School and Abessinio Stadium at Salesianum School.

Sean volunteers in the ACE mentor program to help educate high school students interested in a career in design and construction. He has previously served as an adjunct instructor at Delaware Technical Community College in their architectural engineering department and continues to participate with the department's advisory committee. Sean earned his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Drexel



University after receiving his Associate Degree in Architectural Engineering Technology from Delaware Technical Community College.

His promotion to principal recognizes the significant contributions Sean has made to [ABHA](#) during his tenure. Please join us in congratulating him as he continues with these new responsibilities.



## Becker Morgan Group Announces Staff Promotions

Becker Morgan Group is excited to announce additions to its leadership team, welcoming four new Senior Associates and three new Associates.

These promotions are more than a recognition of past achievements; they are a testament to the value these team members bring to the firm every day. Becker Morgan Group is proud to support their continued professional growth and development as they step into these new roles.

### Senior Associate

- Christopher M. Coleman, AIA, NCARB | Architect
- Edward H. Hastings, PMP | Project Manager
- Eva King, PE, LEED AP BD+C | Civil Engineer
- Jonathan N. Street | Civil Designer

### Associate

- Benjamin P. Dealy, AIA | Architect
- Lisa M. Goss | Marketing & Business Development Manager
- Rhonda L. Hitchens | Administrative Manager



ARCHITECTURE  
ENGINEERING



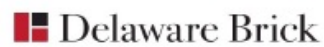
## Our Partners





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- **Upstate Door, Inc. New Member!**
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## RESOURCES

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- [Find an Architect](#)
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AIA Delaware | [www.aidelaware.org](http://www.aidelaware.org)

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