Application Requirements

Overview: The Christopher Kelley Leadership Program was first brought to AIA Colorado in 2017. The program was originally launched in 2013, where the AIA|DC chapter undertook an initiative to develop a program that would help train and nurture the next generation of leaders. This year-long program brings together a competitively selected cohort of 16 emerging leaders for nine half-day sessions focused on leadership development and professional growth.

The program is intended for professionals who have established a foundation in their careers and are seeking to expand their leadership skills, influence, and impact within the architectural profession. For the purposes of this program, an emerging leader is defined as someone who demonstrates leadership potential, initiative, and influence within their firm, profession, or community. Eligible candidates must be licensed architects or individuals pursuing a career in architecture, have a minimum of five years of professional experience (which may include experience outside the architectural profession), and, if licensed, be within 10 years of licensure.

Prospective participants must go through an application process for selection where proven career success, community involvement and the individual's firm support will be considered.

Honoring Christopher Kelley: Christopher Kelley, AIA, was an active member of the DC architectural community and suddenly passed away in May 2012. He was a respected leader within the Institute as well as within Gensler's Washington DC office. Through his volunteer efforts, he participated and contributed to initiatives and programs that have had a positive impact on emerging professionals at different stages of their careers. In 2010, Christopher was honored with the AIA Young Architects Award for which the jury stated, "Christopher has proven himself a young leader within and around the AIA, a real example for other young professionals." This program is intended to continue his legacy of leadership and activism.

Curriculum: The curriculum focuses on core professional skills such as entrepreneurship and firm management, collaboration, the art of negotiation, client development, community leadership, industry trends, and developing your future within the practice. The selected scholars are responsible for planning and participating in each of the individual sessions. The program will be kicked off by an Opening Ceremony session to introduce the participants and to further develop the desired curriculum for the year. This session is mandatory and will be held on **January 15th, 2027** from 10:30am – 5:00pm. Remaining sessions will be held monthly through October.

Application Process: Individuals will be selected on the basis of a written application, recommendations, and resume. Successful applicants will represent a diverse group of emerging professionals that demonstrate a strong potential as a future leader. A jury will convene in December to make the selections of the 2027 program scholars. Candidates will be notified of their selection to participate in the program by mid-December.

Tuition: Tuition for AIA Members is $500; non-AIA member tuition is $850. AIA Colorado may choose to offer tuition assistance to individuals who may otherwise not be able to participate. The amount and number of tuition assistance will be at the discretion of the CKLDP Executive Committee.

AIA Membership: Though AIA membership is encouraged for all scholars, it is not mandatory. A scoring preference will be given to AIA Colorado members, though other emerging professionals are welcome to submit an application for consideration.

AIA Continuing Education: This program includes AIA CE credit for all participants. Scholars are responsible for writing the learning objectives of their assigned session; the program targets a total of 32 CEU's for the year, some of which may be HSW.

Required Commitment to the Program: The program's success is directly related to the attendance by the participants and therefore attendance in person is mandatory. Each participant of the program will be required to sign an Agreement Form that will require a signature from one of the participant's principals of their firm. Provided due notice to the Executive Committee, with extenuating circumstances, each scholar will be allowed one excused absence. If two sessions are missed, a fine of $125 will be sent to the participant's firm. A further absence will result in an additional $125 fine and expulsion from the program. All scholars are required to attend the Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony, missing either will result in an automatic $125 fine. Missing both Opening Ceremony and Closing Ceremony will result in expulsion from the program.

Required Application Materials

Applications must include the following. Incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Required uploads:

1. **Letter of Recommendation** – each application must include one letter of recommendation. Letters should be limited to one page and should be uploaded in PDF format. (Last Name-First Name-Letter of Recommendation.pdf)
2. **Personal Resume** – including applicant's education, employment history, organizations or activity involvement, and honors and awards. Resumes are preferred to be no more than two pages and uploaded in PDF format. (Last Name-First Name-Resume.pdf)
3. **Agreement Form** – completed, signed, and uploaded in PDF format. Please see additional application materials on AIA CO CKLDP website to download a copy of the form. (Last Name-First Name-Agreement.pdf)
4. **Short Answers:** (Last Name-First Name-Short Answer.pdf)

    a. Statement of Interest (250 words)

b. Are you an emerging leader, who is a licensed architect or individual pursuing a career in architecture, has a minimum of five years of professional experience (which may include experience outside the architectural profession), and, if licensed, is within 10 years of licensure? Yes/No
c. Are you an AIA member? Yes/No
d. Have you applied to the CKLDP Program before? Yes/No
e. Have you participated in the AIA Ascend Program? Yes/No
f. Have you participated in AIA EP/YA events? Yes/No
g. What do you feel are the 3 most significant issues and opportunities facing the profession today? (250 words)
h. What are the specific skills or knowledge you hope to gain from your participation in the CKLDP? (250 words)
i. How do you define leadership and how have you demonstrated leadership skills to this point in your career? (250 words)

5. **Tuition Assistance Form (optional):** Tuition Assistance is limited to AIA Colorado members and dependent upon firm support. Individuals are encouraged to apply for tuition assistance if they qualify. Please review the criteria carefully.

Contact: For more information or questions, please reach out to the committee chair listed below.

For more information, please see our website: Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program

2027 Executive Committee:
Christina LoConte, AIA – *Chair* – email
Charles de Pottère, AIA – *Vice Chair* - email
Taylor Higgins, AIA – *Chair Emeritus* – email
Geoff Mittler, AIA – *Business Development Director*
Macy Huffaker – *Outreach Director*
Gina Frenette, Assoc. AIA – *Treasurer*
Julia Lecy, AIA – *Marketing Director*