

**AIA**



**The American  
Institute  
of Architects**

# Rhode Island

**A[ri]A**

**AIAri**

2019  
Board of Directors  
Directory

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## 2019 AIA Rhode Island Board of Directors

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Jonathan Bell, AIA (2019-2020)

Mark A. Hallee, AIA (2019-2020)

Cara Pomeranz, AIA (2018-2019)

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Caroline Stevens



**Jonathan Matthew Taylor, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**  
President (2019-2020)

Jonathan is a Senior Associate at LLB Architects in Pawtucket RI; he is a senior project manager, and the firm's Director of Design Implementation. He is licensed to practice architecture in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is NCARB certified, and is LEED accredited. Current projects include the Creative Class in Fall River, MA, Sagamore Landing, Fall River, MA, several renovation projects at Bryant University including their Unistructure Building, and a residence hall renovation at Brown University.

He has over 18 years of extensive experience in planning for governmental and institutional clients, including courthouses, office buildings, and academic facilities. He is a successful coordinator of both small and large scale, complex projects and programs, managing them through construction contract administration until completion, close-out and occupancy.

Jonathan graduated from Syracuse University with a BArch, and a minor in architecture history. While at Syracuse, he was actively engaged in the University Senate, Student Government, and was a founding member of the Syracuse Community Design Center. Jonathan worked for George Hodosh Architects (New City, New York) while at Syracuse, and Gorman Richardson Architects (Hopkinton, Massachusetts), the immediate year after graduation.

Prior to joining LLB Architects, Jonathan practiced in Boston at Goody Clancy. Clients included: Babson College, Bridgewater State College, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Yale University, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the General Services Administration. Federal projects with the G.S.A. included work on the St. Elizabeths Campus for U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, and most notably a seven-year role managing the award-winning \$160 million-dollar renovation/restoration of Cram and Ferguson's 1932 John W. McCormack (POCH) Building, Boston. Federal tenants of the POCH included U.S. Dept. of Education, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Bankruptcy Courts.

Jonathan has been a member of the AIA since 2000, and an active member at the chapter level, through both the Boston Society of Architects/AIA, and AIA Rhode Island, and at the regional and national levels in numerous roles. He is an inaugural recipient of the AIA Associates Award (2008), and was awarded Richard Upjohn Fellowship (2012) for service on the AIA Board of Directors. He joined the AIA Rhode Island Board in 2014 as a Director and was the 2017-2018 Secretary. Jonathan is also active with the Syracuse University Alumni Association, and SU Student Association/Government alumni group.

He and his wife Kelly L. Swan Taylor, Esq. reside in Providence, with their spoiled cats: Otto & Kona.



**Paul Hauser, AIA, LEED AP**  
Vice-President (2019)

Paul is an Associate Principal at Vision 3 Architects, located in Providence, RI. The firm specializes in corporate office, health care, education and hospitality design. He has been a core member of the Corporate Office Team for almost a decade.

A LEED Accredited Professional since 2009, Paul is a champion for sustainable technologies and design. A project he's most proud of is the Hope Hospice and Palliative Care of RI, which was the first LEED certified health care project in the state of Rhode Island, with its LEED Gold certification. Other major projects Paul has overseen include an 80,000 sf medical marijuana cultivation facility and two dispensaries for New England Treatment Access (NETA) located in Massachusetts, and the new customer Service Center for the Office of the RI Attorney General, which is currently under construction and expected to receive LEED Silver certification.

Vision 3 has been recognized a number of times for projects Paul has managed, including a national design award for the Navinet corporate offices located in Boston, MA; the 2016 AIAri Interiors Honor Award for the design of Pet Food Experts Corporate Headquarters in Pawtucket, RI; and the 2016 AIAri People's Choice runner-up for the NETA medical marijuana dispensary in Northampton, RI.

Paul graduated from Roger Williams University in 2006 with a Master of Architecture degree. Paul joined the Board in 2018 as a Director. He organized and ran the 2018 AIA-RI Golf Classic. He lives in Attleboro, MA with his wife, Katie, daughter, Hannah, and their black lab, Abby.

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**Nick Koulbanis, AIA, LEED AP**  
Secretary (2019-2020)

Nick is a Principal and Director of the Higher Education Studio at SMMA. He joined the firm in 2017, bringing over 16 years of experience with him from the Higher Education, Life Science, Healthcare, and Commercial sectors. Prior to joining SMMA, Nick led his previous firm's Higher Education studio, designing and programming a number of projects across the country; he also worked on several projects for area institutions, including the design of The Center for Culinary Excellence for Johnson & Wales University, and the newly completed South Street Landing and Rhode Island Nursing Education Center - a joint medical simulation project for Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island's nursing programs in the old Narragansett Electric Power Station.

Nick graduated from Roger Williams University School of Architecture in 2001, earning a Bachelor of Architecture Degree alongside his Construction Management and Fine Arts Minors. He is licensed to practice architecture in multiple states, and also a Fitwel Ambassador and a LEED accredited professional. Additionally, Nick has done extensive research, writing, and presenting on active learning pedagogy and sustainable design, and is an active speaker at several leading conferences. His research has led to the incorporation of a number of innovative sustainable strategies to his projects, and has fostered creating designs that are a model for resiliency. He is an active member of the Society for College and University Planning.

Nick was born in Westerly, Rhode Island where he maintains a residence and enjoys his time in South County with his 2 children.

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**Timothy Kennedy, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

Treasurer (2018-2019)

Timothy has been practicing architecture since 1981, and at n|e|l|m|d architects, inc. in Providence for the last 13 years, currently as Associate Principal, and Project Manager.

Tim's work focuses on the architectural design and construction of health-care facilities. While at n|e|l|m|d Tim has implemented numerous successful healthcare projects, including operating rooms, simulation laboratories, infusion suites, radiology and oncology facilities, dermatology clinics, psychiatry suites, and new medical office buildings. Previous to n|e|l|m|d Tim gained a broad spectrum of building and design types throughout the United States, China, and Singapore.

Tim's expansive resume includes innovative projects for Brigham and Women's Hospital, South Shore Hospital, Cambridge Health Alliance, South County Hospital in RI, and Coastal Medical in RI to name a few.

Tim earned his bachelor of Architecture at the University of Miami, and Architectural Historic Preservation from the University of Florida. He is licensed to practice architecture in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, is NCARB certified, and LEED accredited. He is an active member of the AIA and was previously the AIAri Secretary for six years, and a Board member for eight years. He volunteers for the ACE program, and is a thesis advisor at the BAC.

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**Eric N. Zuena, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

Past President (2019)

Eric is the founding Principal of ZDS and a lead contributor to the firm's continuing success. He carries over two decades of project management experience in the hospitality industry and is impassioned with providing stellar design solutions that are lucrative for the entire project team. His hands-on, learned and zealous approach from the onset of a project instills a perpetual forward motion, affording immediate results.

After 15 years as a Principal, Director of Operations, and Lead Project Manager at his previous firm, Eric turned back to his hometown to build a firm that threads those international experiences into the more regionalized fabric of the United States. Eric's daily quest for a successful balance between creative thinking, exceptional design, and efficient execution, reinforces his passion for the design industry and his persistent desire to provide his clients with profitable and successful properties.

Eric has led the design and project management of numerous luxury hotels and mixed use properties through the United States, Middle East, China, and Southeast Asia. Some of his greatest works include luxury hotels for clients and major operators in India, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh. His veteran work experience in both the domestic and international markets equips him with the ability to foresee a myriad of practical and innovative design and business solutions. A strong business sense paired with his innate design talent makes certain for solid project success.

Eric is a mentor for young architects and designers in the industry. He has been part of relative round table discussions and often frequents universities offering his skillful knowledge in portfolio reviews. He is a champion of ensuring an optimistic future for the next generation of architects and designers.

He received his B.Arch from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. He is licensed to practice architecture in multiple states, is NCARB certified, and is LEED accredited. Eric also currently serves as President on the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Rhode Island Board of Directors.

Eric was born and still a proud resident of Rhode Island. His wife, Edina, works part time with the State and together they raise their seven year old daughter, Valentina, and 1 year old son, Nicholas in Cranston, Rhode Island.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



**Kara Babcock, AIA**  
Director (2019-2020)

Since joining Union Studio in 2010, Kara has provided her expertise on a variety of project types, including the new Tiverton Public Library, the adaptive reuse of an historic courthouse in Bennington, VT, and as team leader for a winning competition for workforce housing on Cape Cod.

She was recently involved in a research project focused on the effects of sea level rise in historic neighborhoods. Working closely with a small team to re-search sea level rise in the historic Point Neighborhood of Newport, they proposed short-term, mid-term and long-term solutions which the City could begin to implement to protect and preserve the historic architecture.

Kara is currently serving as the project architect for the Hammetts Wharf hotel in downtown Newport, RI. With her background in both architecture and fine arts, Kara takes great pride in the design aesthetics of a building, working closely with large project teams to shepherd a design from concept through to completion.

Prior to joining Union Studio, she interned for a healthcare design firm in Maryland, and she worked as a consultant to a Rhode Island-based architectural firm focused on residential projects.

Kara received both Bachelor and Master of Architecture degrees from Roger Williams University. She frequently returns to her alma mater to serve as a guest critic at architectural studio design reviews. She also spent time as an ACE mentor when she first joined Union Studio. Most recently, she was accepted into and completed the DESIGNxRI Fall 2017 Design Forward Advance program.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



### **Jonathan Bell, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP**

Director (2019-2020)

Jonathan is an architect and educator who has practiced in Rhode Island since 2000, and has been a member of the AIA since 2005. Jonathan believes that architecture is a collaborative, social art, and that quality design should exemplify our cultural goals.

Jonathan, with Ian Baldwin, are the principals at DUAL, an architecture studio in downtown Providence. DUAL's project portfolio ranges from single-family residential renovations, to adaptive reuse of large industrial buildings, to research-based urban investigations. Prior to co-founding DUAL, Jonathan worked in several offices in Rhode Island and New York, completing projects for individuals, universities and mission-oriented nonprofits.

A native of Wooster, Ohio, Jonathan has a B.A. from Wesleyan University and an M.Arch, from Princeton University. Jonathan is an architect in Rhode Island, holds an NCARB certificate, and is a LEED Accredited Professional. He also serves as Vice President for Buildings and Grounds on the board of the Providence Athenaeum Library. He teaches in the Interior Architecture Department at the Rhode Island School of Design and has taught at Roger Williams University. His academic work includes publications on infrastructural reuse and film theory.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



**Mark A. Hallee, AIA, NCARB**  
Director (2019-2020)

With over 20 years of experience in architecture, Mark has helped shape multiple award-winning projects around New England. His experience has included a diverse collection of significant projects at both large and small scales focusing on meticulous, detailed design work. Mark brings a tremendous amount of passion and enthusiasm to every project. He is thoughtful, responsive and hardworking with an eagerness to create great architecture.

After graduating from Roger Williams University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Architecture, Mark's work has been focused around institutional, educational and commercial projects with additional residential expertise in multi-family housing. It has included a range of project phases and types, including master planning, new construction, additions and renovations, adaptive reuse, historic restoration. His experience has encompassed all phases of the design process, from early conceptual studies to complicated construction administration and everything in between.

Mark has had the great fortune of working for fantastic firms over the years, starting out with a residential design-build firm in Vermont, Williams & Freese. This was followed by several years at HMFH Architects in Cambridge concentrating on K-12 educational work. A highlight during this time was the Beaver Country Day School Performing Arts Center which received various accolades including the Excellence in K-12 Educational Facilities Award from the BSA. More recent experience was as a Senior Associate at LLB Architects in Rhode Island. The URI Hillside Residence Hall project was a notable accomplishment which was awarded Best Institutional Building Design by the AIA RI chapter in 2012.

In 2016, Mark founded the company Up Architecture and is actively in search of unique / special architectural opportunities. Mark is NCARB certified and holds registrations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. He has been a member of the AIA since 2004. Mark is originally from Maine, but has lived in Providence for the past 14 years with his wife (also an architect) and their 9-year-old son (who wants to be an architect...) When not obsessing about buildings, Mark enjoys seeing the world and spending time with friends and family.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



**Cara Pomeranz, AIA**  
Director (2018-2019)

Cara Pomeranz graduated cum laude from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2008, receiving both the President's Award and the Unsung Hero Award. She holds a Master of Architecture degree and is an active alumni, participating as a thesis advisor and visiting critic since her graduation. Cara also currently volunteers as a Rhode Island Ace Mentor.

Cara's professional practice has focused on the residential, healthcare and higher education practice areas. As an Associate at Payette in Boston, she was a crucial team member on the Milken School of Public Health and Health Services which has won many distinguished awards, including an AIA Interior Architecture Award and a COTE Top 10 award. Most recently, while at Payette, she had a critical role in Boston University's Center for Integrated Life Science and Engineering.

Throughout her practice, Cara has developed a keen sense of integration with design technology. She has leveraged her BIM knowledge and digital drawing skills to communicate with both contractors and clients alike.

Cara has recently gone back to her roots and migrated her professional practice Rhode Island. She has joined LLB Architects and is excited to ingrain herself in the Rhode Island architectural community.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



### **Kaitlin DeGregorio, Assoc. AIA**

Emerging Professionals Director (2018-2019)

Kaitlin is currently an architectural designer for Union Studio Architecture and Community Design in Providence. Her diverse background includes serving as the studio manager for O&G Studio, a boutique furniture design studio with a strong craftsman influence; developing construction documents and interior renderings for a Rhode Island-based Design-Build company; and teaching high school students how to create community spaces in vacant lots in Dorchester, MA. She studied abroad in both Buenos Aires, Argentina and Florence, Italy.

Katie earned her Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Science with a minor in Anthropology/Sociology and Digital Media from Roger Williams University.

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**Manuel Cordero, AIA, NCARB**

Director; RISD Education Liaison

Manuel is an educator, architect, and advocate based in Providence. His interest in expanding the audience of architectural practice and discourse led him to found DownCity Design, a non-profit design organization dedicated to improving civic life while offering inquiry-based, experiential learning opportunities. He enjoys sharing his passion for design with students of all ages, including high school and middle school students for DownCity Design and as adjunct faculty in the Architecture Department of the Rhode Island School of Design. His research and teaching has recently focused on the shifting focal point of planning in post-industrial cities, urban resilience and infrastructure, and the role and efficacy of participatory engagement practices in public placemaking.

Manuel is a licensed architect in Rhode Island, with several years of experience in large-scale institutional projects, with a focus on educational and community planning projects. He works at the School Building Authority at the Rhode Island Department of Education where he oversees approximately \$70M in annual public school construction in the State and monitors compliance with the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools protocol, a green building rating system for schools.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Manuel received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and earned a Masters of Architecture degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an active member of the community, serving on several boards including the West Broadway Neighborhood Association and the Providence Redevelopment Agency.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



**Stephen White, AIA**

Director; RWU Education Liaison

Stephen is Dean of the Roger Williams University School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, Bristol, RI. He is committed to architectural education and practice existing as a continuum serving the public at local and global scales.

During his tenure since 1997, the School has established several unique programs advancing this goal: the Teaching Firm in Residence Program bringing multiple practitioners from noted architecture firms for semester long teaching; the Career Investment Program investing in students and firms by providing paid internships for undergraduate and graduate students supported by federal, university and donor funding; and the Women's Leadership Network linking students, faculty, alumni and senior professionals. As AIA Rhode Island President in 2006, White and colleagues co-founded the AIA Rhode Island Window on Architecture, one of only three AIA Chapters to be located at a university, which won a 2010 AIA Grassroots Honorable Mention. At Roger Williams University he has also co-founded two university centers—the Community Partnerships Center, and the Center for Macro Projects and Diplomacy. These engage students and faculty with professionals and the public on local and global issues through project-based undertakings--the first with Rhode Island communities, the second with cross-sector teams of academic, corporate, government and non-profit leaders who have convened (so far) to address complex and large scale issues including reconstruction after war or disaster, water, renewable timber technology for urban construction, and reforestation for climate change.

Prior to coming to Rhode Island, White worked at architecture offices including Architectenburo Hertzberger, Amsterdam; Stein Doshi Bhalla, New Delhi; HOK London, Hoffmann Partnership, St. Louis; and Richard C. Marshall Associates, San Francisco. He taught at Washington University in St. Louis and as a Visiting Critic at the School of Architecture, Ahmedabad, India. White received a BA summa cum laude in Architecture, a Master of Architecture with the AIA Henry Adams Medal, and an MA in Literature and History supported by an NEH Fellowship, from Washington University in St. Louis.

White's book, *Building In The Garden: The Architecture of Joseph Allen Stein in India and California* (Oxford University Press, 1993/94/98) was supported by several grants from the Ford Foundation. A subsequent US Information Service-supported exhibition and lecture program toured India, several US and Canadian universities and AIA San Francisco. White recently contributed a book chapter to *Le Corbusier, Chandigarh and the Modern City* (Mapin/Grantha, 2010) addressing the pressures for inclusion and expanding populations on the city. He has lectured and served on design studio reviews in the US, UK, India and The Netherlands, and was US Correspondent to India's *Architecture + Design* magazine in the early 1990's.

White has served nationally on the ACSA Board of Directors, the NCARB Education Committee, and the AIA Membership Committee. He currently serves on the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation Advisory Committee, ACSA New Faculty Awards and the AIA Rhode Island Architectural Forum, in addition to AIA Rhode Island.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



### **Elias Christo, AIAS**

Student Affiliate representative; RWU

Elias graduated from Roger Williams University in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. He is currently enrolled in the Graduate Architecture program to earn his Masters in Architecture, set to graduate May 2020. He is currently the 2018-2019 AIAS President for the Roger Williams University chapter.

His professional experience includes a Summer, two Winters, and remote work for Umass Medical School's facilities department, mainly drafting or modeling renovations to the campus and hospital. Additionally, he spent a summer with Gregory J. O'Connor Associates in Worcester, MA, mostly doing corporate architecture for banks. Most recently, he spent a summer with GMI architects in Bristol, RI, and continued to work part-time through the semester, again drafting and modeling for large Mental/Behavioral Health Hospitals, while also having the opportunity to do some design work and flex his hand-drafting muscles through preliminary sketches.

Elias is also an Eagle Scout and enjoys playing drums for various musical groups in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

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## 2019 AIAri Board of Directors Directory



**Conor MacDonald**  
Public Director (2018-2019)

Conor is the Programs and Engagement Director at DESIGNxRI, an economic development group serving the design sector in Rhode Island which works to coalesce and invest in the sector through leadership and business skills development, cross-disciplinary networking events, celebration of the state's talent, and advocacy. Design Week RI, Design Forward RI, Providence Design Catalyst, and the monthly Clambake talks are a few of the organization's initiatives.

Previously, he dedicated ten years to the Boston Society of Architects/AIA as Member Relations Director, where he supported more than 45 member initiatives, committees and representative groups, membership strategy, and data and renewals management. He also supported Architecture Boston Magazine, Community Design Resource Center of Boston, and the inaugural development campaign for the BSA Foundation.

He studied business and finance at Lehigh University, with a minor focus in architectural history, and serves on the Building and Grounds Committee for the Providence Athenaeum.

He is a design enthusiast and community builder, and through his work with the architecture profession has witnessed the ability and potential of architectural thinking to guide the building of stronger, more equitable, and more sustainable communities.

He lives in Mount Hope, Providence, and is intermittently involved in transportation advocacy, neighborhood tree plantings, building restoration, and gardening - guerrilla and otherwise.

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**Caroline Stevens**  
Executive Director

As the Executive Director of AIA Rhode Island, Caroline oversees the operations, financial health and implementation of the Chapter's programs, while seeking new opportunities for growth.

Caroline comes to AIAri with a breadth of experience in architectural programming and a passion for building community and dialogue around the design of our cities. Over the past decade, her work has evolved from leading architectural tours and writing a Chicago-based building blog, to creating innovative place-based public programs in cities across the US. Prior to moving to Providence, she helped launch and later managed the Chicago Architecture Foundation's "Open House Chicago," now one of the largest architecture and urban exploration festivals in the world.

In her spare time, Caroline continues her work directing Doors Open RI, a new initiative she founded that organizes local place-based public programs. Through her leadership, Doors Open RI has made its mark on Providence with such events as a funeral for the Fogarty Building and Doors Open RI Festival.

Caroline is a recipient of an Embark Fellowship from Brown University, from where she recently graduated with an MA in Public Humanities. Caroline lives in Providence with her husband Nadav, enjoys antiquing, exploring and eating fruit pies.

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