June 30, 2026

Re: AIA Ohio Mentor Award for Shawn Conyers, AIA

AIA Ohio
Honor Awards Committee
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Ste. 120
Worthington, OH 43085

Dear Members of the Honor Awards Committee,

I am honored to offer to you a nomination for an AIA Ohio member who I believe has led our profession and portrays the finest level of Mentorship in our industry, Shawn Conyers, AIA.

Mentorship is the foundation of our industry. The practice of architecture is rooted in a mentorship based philosophy that we as professionals learn through those who came before us, we strive to emulate those we admire and we are trained most significantly by the ones who offer engagement with us as we develop. Shawn Conyers, AIA is that and so much more.

Shawn's leadership role as a Principal Architect at Meyers+Associates is primarily concentrated around his talents and skills as a mentor. His influence on others has shaped the organization and all that he interacts with. Shawn has taken the strength of his engaging personality and his exceptional skills as a practicing architect and has cultivated a method of mentorship that has made a lasting impact on hundreds of individuals. He leads projects with the mindfulness of using the process of developing architecture not just for its technical components but he also mentors the techniques of interpersonal engagement, relationship building, mutual respect of those involved in the project and critical management skills training. Shawn is not just shaping architects, he is shaping good people.

Shawn's mentorship success did not just happen late in his career. Shawn was shaped by family, coaches, teachers, and colleagues. He has carried those traits to all that he engages with not just on the job. As a father, Shawn has mentored his sons to great acclaim, as a coach, he has touched the lives of hundreds and has fostered a passion for athletics, as a community activist, he has led area commissions and guided the success of many impactful projects, and as a company leader, he has shaped and defined the direction of the success of my firm.

Mentorship in practice takes effort, we are all busy, we all have a lot on our plate. The finest example and a true steward of the profession and our root in Mentorship is Shawn Conyers, AIA. He will always, without question, put the successful development and mentorship and guidance of others first, he finds the time, he makes the effort.

Beyond the mentorship in practice and the hundreds of individuals that he engages with and has led with his exceptional example. I ask that you recognize one that I call one of my own mentors, one that I seek out when I need wisdom, clarity, guidance and thoughtful motivation.

Shawn Conyers, AIA is all that embodies the great traits and worthy recognition of the most valued attribute in the practice of architecture and also the impactful shaping of people, that of being notable as holding the honor of being an exceptional mentor.

With regards,



Christopher Meyers, FAIA NCARB LEED AP
Principal Architect and Founding Owner
2021 AIA Ohio Mentor Award Recipient
2023 AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award Recipient

AIA Columbus

June 26, 2026

AIA Ohio
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120
Worthington, OH 43085

To the AIA Ohio Award Jury:

Mentorship is one of the most enduring contributions an architect can make. Buildings eventually change, but the knowledge, confidence, and values we pass to others continue to shape the profession for generations. Few people embody that responsibility more fully than Shawn Conyers, AIA. It is my honor, on behalf of AIA Columbus, to support Shawn's nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

What distinguishes Shawn as a mentor is not simply that he teaches others—it is how he teaches and why he teaches. Colleagues consistently describe someone who treats every project, every question, and every interaction as an opportunity to help someone else grow. Whether he is reviewing drawings, walking a job site, or leading an AIA program, Shawn invests in people with patience, generosity, and the belief that developing others is part of practicing architecture.

That philosophy is reflected throughout his career. One colleague shared that Shawn often said he never minded taking the time to teach because the person learning today would someday teach someone else. That simple idea captures the way Shawn approaches mentorship. He is not focused on solving today's problem as quickly as possible; he is focused on helping others become capable professionals who will strengthen the profession long after the project is complete.

His mentoring style reflects that same philosophy. Rather than simply providing answers, Shawn encourages people to think critically and work through problems themselves. Former colleagues recall that he often responded to questions with thoughtful questions of his own, helping younger designers develop confidence, judgment, and problem-solving skills. He teaches technical excellence while also teaching people how to think like architects. Whether explaining construction details, reviewing redlines, or discussing field conditions, Shawn consistently turns everyday project work into learning opportunities.

That commitment extends well beyond his own project teams. In 2024, Shawn served as a mentor in the AIA Columbus ARCHway leadership and mentorship program, where he developed relationships that continued long after the formal program ended. He has shared his personal journey through the Stories of Architects program, giving students and emerging professionals an honest perspective on both the opportunities and challenges of architectural practice. Through project tours of the Hilton Tower expansion and the new WOSU headquarters, he has helped architects at every stage of their careers better understand the design, construction, and collaboration behind significant community projects. Each of these efforts reflects the same commitment to helping others learn and succeed.

The clearest measure of Shawn's mentorship is not found in the programs he has led, but in the people he has influenced. Those he has mentored consistently describe becoming more confident, more thoughtful, and more willing to invest in others because of his example. His influence continues through the architects and designers who now mentor others using the same patience, generosity, and commitment that Shawn first demonstrated to them.

Shawn has strengthened AIA Columbus, enriched the careers of countless professionals, and helped foster a culture where knowledge is shared freely and future leaders are intentionally developed. For these reasons, I enthusiastically recommend Shawn Conyers for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Sincerely,

Dan Hanes, AIA
President-Elect, AIA Columbus

The American Institute of Architects Columbus
50 West Town Street, Suite 110
Columbus, OH 43215
614-469-1973
www.aiacolumbus.org



AIA Ohio Mentor Award Nomination

Shawn Conyers doesn't just mentor people. He builds the systems, organizations, relationships, and cultures that allow mentorship to flourish. He is the architect of a mentorship ecosystem whose impact continues to grow through each generation of leaders it produces.

BUILDING PEOPLE, LEADERS & COMMUNITY

Mentorship is often measured by the success of the people directly impacted. Shawn Conyers' impact is measured by something larger: the leaders those individuals become. Throughout his career, he has built a mentorship ecosystem that extends from youth development and emerging professionals to civic leadership and professional stewardship. His influence does not end with the people he mentors…it multiplies through them.

FROM ATHLETICS TO ARCHITECTURE

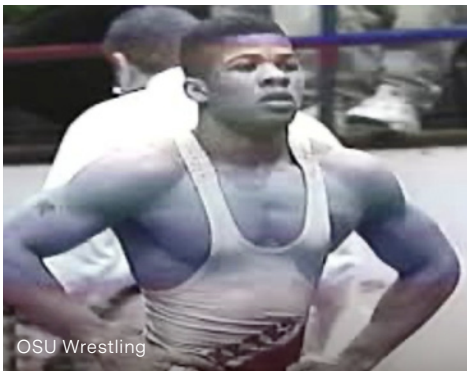
Long before Shawn Conyers became an architect, he learned one of the most important lessons of leadership: individual success is brief, but team success endures. As a walk-on wrestler at The Ohio State University who earned his place through perseverance, eventually becoming a 4-year varsity letterwinner, three-time NCAA qualifier and competing in the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, Shawn learned that achievement is never the result of talent alone. It is built through trust, accountability, and a commitment to helping others perform at their highest level.

Those lessons became the foundation of his professional philosophy. Early in his career, he experienced a culture where emerging professionals were trusted with responsibility, invited into client conversations, and expected to contribute meaningfully to project outcomes. He carried those experiences to Meyers+Associates in 2007 and has spent nearly two decades refining a leadership approach rooted in a simple belief: architecture is a team sport.

The leadership qualities that would later define Shawn's mentorship were recognized early in his career. In 2009, he was named a recipient of Business First's 40 Under 40 Award, recognizing Central Ohio's most promising emerging leaders. While the award acknowledged his professional accomplishments, it also foreshadowed the broader influence he would have on the people, organizations, and communities he would later help shape.

Throughout his career, Shawn has translated the responsibilities of a team captain into a model for professional stewardship. He leads as a player-coach, remaining fully engaged in the work while deliberately creating opportunities for others to lead. For Shawn, the true measure of leadership is not personal accomplishment, but the success of those who grow because of your influence.


A Commitment to Developing Others


OSU Wrestling


Meyers+Associates Annual Meeting

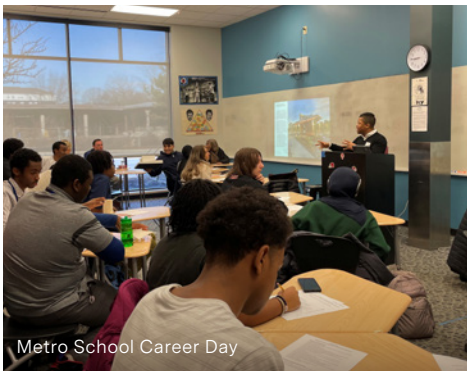
THE PIPELINE OF IMPACT

At Meyers+Associates, Shawn uses project work as the primary vehicle for professional growth. He intentionally creates opportunities for emerging professionals to stretch beyond their comfort zones, assume meaningful responsibility, and develop the confidence necessary to lead. Rather than solving problems for people, he teaches them how to think through challenges, navigate complexity, and develop their own professional judgment.

His mentorship has shaped the careers of numerous architects, designers, and community leaders. Colleagues consistently describe him as a leader who is accessible, invested, and genuinely committed to their long-term success. They note that his mentorship extends well beyond project delivery; he helps individuals understand how to build careers, cultivate relationships, contribute to the profession, and ultimately become mentors themselves.

One example is Aubrey Flores, whom Shawn entrusted with leadership responsibilities on a highly complex hospitality project early in her career. That experience accelerated her growth into Meyers+Associates' Director of BIM, a nationally recognized Autodesk 40 Under 40 Construction Champion, and co-founder of the Columbus chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), creating new pathways for future generations of designers.

The same pattern can be seen in the careers of others Shawn has mentored. Brian Peterson's journey from intern to Senior Architect and AIA Columbus Treasurer reflects Shawn's long-term investment in developing not only technical competence



Metro School Career Day

> *"Through his encouragement and support, I continued networking throughout Columbus and ultimately secured my current position with The Superior Group"*
>
> – Bashar Ahmed, 2024
> AIA Archway Mentee



AIA Stories of Architects 2023

but professional confidence. Nick Munoz credits Shawn's trust and guidance for helping him develop the client-facing and construction administration skills that continue to shape his own leadership approach today.

These stories reveal a consistent pattern. Shawn deliberately shares opportunities rather than accumulating them. He steps aside so others can lead meetings, present to clients, manage project challenges, and gain visibility within the profession. The result is not simply successful projects, but successful professionals whose influence continues to expand throughout Ohio's architectural community.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP AS A SHARED VICTORY

Shawn's commitment to mentorship extends far beyond the walls of Meyers+Associates. He views civic engagement through the same lens that guides his professional practice: bringing people together, creating opportunities for participation, and helping others succeed.

Shawn's commitment to building pathways into the profession began early in his leadership career. In 2010, while serving on the Executive Board of Directors, he helped reestablish an active and functioning Alumni Society at The Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture. The effort strengthened connections between students, alumni, and practitioners, creating opportunities for mentorship, professional engagement, and long-term support of future architects. The initiative foreshadowed a recurring theme throughout Shawn's career: building structures that enable others to grow and succeed.

As Board President of the Neighborhood Design Center during a critical period of organizational transition, Shawn guided the hiring of new leadership, strengthened partnerships with The Ohio State University, diversified funding sources, and helped reposition the organization for long-term sustainability. More importantly, he used that leadership platform to create opportunities for students, emerging professionals, and community members to engage directly with design as a tool for positive change.

His ongoing support of the Neighborhood Design Center's award-winning Youth CoLab program demonstrates his belief that mentorship begins long before professional practice. Through paid summer internships and community-based design projects, the program introduces high school students to design careers while creating meaningful pathways into the profession. Shawn's continued advocacy reflects his understanding that architecture's future depends upon expanding access and cultivating talent long before licensure begins.

As Chairman of the Victorian Village Commission, Shawn is recognized for building consensus, encouraging participation, and helping diverse stakeholders work towards shared outcomes. His leadership reflects the same mentoring philosophy that defines his professional practice.

His participation in the 2024 AIA ARCHway Mentorship Program further demonstrates a lifelong commitment to developing future leaders within the profession. Even after formal mentorship commitments conclude, Shawn continues investing in relationships that help emerging professionals navigate career decisions, leadership opportunities, and professional growth.



Eagle Wrestling Club



Neighborhood Design Center | 2018 Busser Award


NDC CoLab


Chairing Victorian Village Commission

The individuals listed below represent only a fraction of the architects, designers, and professionals whose careers Shawn has influenced over more than two decades of mentorship:

Kyle Bunke, AIA, Senior Associate, JMM Architects | **Charity Sims**, Assoc. AIA, Project Manager, pH7 Architects | **Kara Gustafson**, RA, RDI, Senior Project Manager, GreenbergFarrow | **Molly Bryant**, NCIDQ, Owner/Principal Interior Designer, Studio M Co. (Greenville SC) | **Mike Forejt**, AIA, Principal, Design Group | **Zach Alves**, CSI, Huckabee (Fort Worth TX) | **Chris Green**, AIA, Owner/Principal, Chrysalis Architecture Studio (Nashville TN) | **Lindsay Mitchell**, AIA, Architect, Columbus Architectural Studio | **Michelle C. Burmeister**, IIDA, NCIDQ, Interior Design Lead, Gensler | **Kurt Miller**, AIA, Senior Architect/ Design Manager, WSA

Others at Meyers+Associates: **Rachael Smale**, AIA and **Darren Spenciero,** AIA

Outside architecture, Shawn co-founded the Bishop Watterson Eagle Wrestling Club that is home to a youth wrestling program focused on character development, discipline, teamwork, and confidence. While the setting is different, the philosophy remains the same. Whether mentoring architects, community leaders, students, or young athletes, Shawn measures success by the growth of others.

MENTORSHIP THAT MULTIPLIES

The most meaningful measure of Shawn Conyers' mentorship is not found in a single project, position, or accomplishment. It is found in the growing network of architects, designers, civic leaders, students, and professionals who continue to apply lessons learned through his guidance.

His former mentees now mentor others. They lead firms, professional organizations, community initiatives, and project teams, creating opportunities for the next generation just as Shawn created opportunities for them. What began as individual acts of mentorship has evolved into a self-sustaining ecosystem of leadership whose impact continues to grow far beyond his direct involvement.

That is Shawn's enduring contribution to the profession. He has not simply mentored people, he has built mentors. By intentionally building people, organizations, and cultures that foster leadership, he has become the architect of a mentorship ecosystem that will continue to strengthen the profession for generations to come.

By building people, Shawn strengthens architecture. By strengthening architecture, he strengthens the communities it serves.

AIA OHIO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
400 W. WILSON BRIDGE ROAD, SUITE 120
WORTHINGTON, OH 43085

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06.26.26

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RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - SHAWN CONYERS, AIA, NCARB; 2026 AIA OHIO MENTOR AWARD

Dear Members of the AIA Ohio Review Committee,

I am honored to offer my strongest recommendation for Shawn Conyers, AIA, for the 2026 AIA Ohio Mentor Award. As a former recipient, I understand the significance of this recognition and its power to affirm leaders who quietly strengthen the profession through service to others. Shawn embodies the spirit of mentorship in architecture. He consistently inspires emerging talent through teaching, guidance, and example, and he understands the power of "we." Throughout his career, he has built relationships, fostered trust, and created a culture of care.

Shawn and I both served on the board of the Ohio State Knowlton School of Architecture Alumni Society, where I first witnessed his kindness, collegial spirit, and natural ability to inspire the next generation of architects. Shawn builds relationships with ease. He listens with empathy, takes care to understand each person's strengths and aspirations, and, through his consistent and reliable presence, becomes a trusted advisor to many.

That same commitment to service and mentorship has been evident throughout Shawn's broader professional career. Over the past two decades, I have watched his career flourish as he has become a respected leader in Columbus' architectural community. His service to the Columbus Neighborhood Design Center, where I currently serve as President of the Board of Directors, is especially noteworthy. As Board President, Shawn helped cultivate a committed and capable board, strengthening programs that support the profession's pipeline and create meaningful impact in Columbus neighborhoods. Much of our current programming continues to benefit from the structure, vision, and momentum he helped put in place.

As a firm leader at Meyers + Associates, Shawn has made a lasting impact on colleagues and emerging professionals, many of whom have modeled their own careers after his example. Kurt Miller, a member of my current team, directly benefited from Shawn's mentorship and is now highly regarded within our firm as a trusted advisor and mentor to others. Kurt's growth is one example of the broader influence Shawn has had throughout the profession. Through steady guidance, thoughtful counsel, and a generous investment in others, Shawn has helped emerging professionals develop the confidence and judgment needed to navigate the complexities of architectural practice.

For these reasons, I am proud to endorse **Shawn Conyers, AIA**, for the 2026 AIA Ohio Mentor Award. Shawn's influence is evident not only in the careers he has helped shape, but also in the culture of generosity, trust, and professional responsibility he has fostered among those around him. Recognizing leaders like Shawn affirms the values that strengthen our profession and inspires future generations of architects to lead with the same care, humility, and purpose. I can think of few individuals more deserving of this recognition.

Yours very truly,



TIMOTHY C. HAWK, FAIA; PRESIDENT; WSA

—

WSA; 235 N FOURTH STREET, SUITE 200; COLUMBUS, OH 43215

June 24, 2026

AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury

RE: Letter of Support – Shawn Conyers, AIA, NCARB for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026

Dear Members of the AIA Ohio Review Committee,

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Shawn Conyers' nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award. I had the privilege of working with Shawn on the WOSU Public Media project from 2018 through 2021, where I witnessed firsthand his exceptional commitment to mentorship, collaboration, and team development.

WOSU Public Media was a uniquely complex project — the only new-build television and radio broadcast facility constructed in Columbus in many years. It required exacting technical standards, including acoustical isolation, signal integrity, and highly specialized MEP coordination, all delivered within a design-forward vision for WOSU's future home. Shawn approached this complexity with calm leadership and technical depth, while consistently bringing others along in the process rather than directing from the top.

The project was further challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, which required a rapid transition to virtual coordination while preserving the collaborative culture we had built in person. Shawn was instrumental in maintaining team cohesion through that shift, ensuring communication, trust, and mentorship were not lost in a virtual environment. He also supported the Construction Administration team in delivering the high standards demanded by this one-of-a-kind facility, helping problem-solve in real time and reinforcing quality expectations throughout an unprecedented period.

Throughout the project, Shawn fostered a true team culture, communicating that success belonged to the client, architect, contractor, and every individual contributing to the work. He empowered his team by delegating meaningful responsibility, allowing younger professionals and project leaders to take ownership, build confidence, and grow into their roles — even on a highly technical and high-profile project.

What truly distinguishes Shawn is that his mentorship extends well beyond any single individual or project. By modeling collaboration, investing in professional growth, and creating space for others to lead, he develops people who go on to mentor others. That multiplying effect strengthens firms, project teams, and the architectural profession across Ohio.

My experience with Shawn also influenced my own approach to mentorship. His example reinforced that mentorship is shown through daily actions, consistent encouragement, and a steady commitment to helping others succeed — especially when conditions are difficult.

Shawn develops people, not just projects. His leadership on WOSU Public Media reflected the best qualities of a mentor: patience, trust, humility, collaboration, and technical excellence. For these reasons, I strongly support his nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hoh
Senior Project Executive
Messer Construction Co.

Brian Peterson
AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury

RE: Letter of Support – Shawn Conyers, AIA, NCARB for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026

June 28, 2026

Dear AIA Ohio Review Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to write in strong support of Shawn Conyers, AIA for the AIA Ohio Mentorship Award.

I had the good fortune of working with Shawn from my very first days at Meyers+Associates as a summer intern, still learning the foundations of what it means to be an architect. Over the years, his consistent guidance has been directly responsible for my growth as both an architect and an emerging leader. Where he once taught me the basics of construction and the architectural process, Shawn now provides counsel on team leadership, client and contractor relationships, and how to maintain a positive attitude in the face of any challenge.

Shawn's mentorship has always been characterized by what I would describe as "teaching without telling," explaining complexity while still leaving room for others to share their perspectives and arrive at their own conclusions. His approach provides independence with the assurance that he is always available as a sounding board and source of support. Shawn pairs this with a deliberate, strategic method of passing the baton in project leadership, allowing those around him to step forward, take on greater responsibility, and elevate their presence and professional standing.

These techniques, clearly developed with intention to build a strong team and cultivate emerging architects, have been critical to my own professional growth. Without Shawn's guidance and deliberate mentorship, I would not have been prepared to lead major projects as early in my career as I have. A hallmark of his approach is a genuine belief in collaboration, always looking to support and encourage those around him toward outcomes that benefit everyone.

His willingness to give freely of his time and talent, combined with his dedication to community by leading organizations such as the Neighborhood Design Center and the Victorian Village Commission, has created a meaningful ripple effect across all those he has encountered. He inspires many to follow his example of leadership, mentorship, and service.

Beyond daily practice and beyond the profession itself, Shawn's dedication to others is evident in his personal life and community engagement, as anyone who knows him well will attest. His dedication to family, friends and community inspires others to seek the same. Put simply, Shawn Conyers is a model of what an architect and mentor can and should be.

I am honored to recommend him for this well-deserved recognition.



Brian Peterson, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C

Senior Architect | Meyers+Associates
AIA Columbus Treasurer 2026

MICHAEL STEVENS
Director

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

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Columbus, OH 43215
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AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury
Re: Letter of Support – Shawn Conyers, AIA, NCARB for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026
Dear AIA Ohio Review Committee,

The City of Columbus Historic Preservation Office (HPO) is enthused to attest to the mentorship and far-reaching impact of Shawn Conyers who serves as Chair of the Victorian Village Commission. The Commissions play a critical role in shaping development in the City and retaining cultural resources for present and future residents.

Commissioners are Mayoral appointed volunteers tasked with bringing their expertise to reviewing proposals with a wide range of complexities, with applicants from diverse backgrounds, all while upholding Historic Preservation and Architectural Review District Guidelines and Columbus City Code. The results of these reviews, and the way the reviews are conducted, greatly impact residents and visitors for years to come.

Shawn has an established reputation among the HPO for maintaining the utmost professional manner, regardless of proposal challenges or disagreements that naturally occur in a review process. As Chair, Shawn works to ensure applicants, Commissioners, and City staff are heard; discussions are accessible and enjoyable; and reviews are constructive, thorough, and professional.

Shawn's mentorship was notably crucial at a juncture for the Commission in which nearly all seats became vacant in close succession. Under Shawn's guidance, institutional knowledge was seamlessly transferred without impeding the independence of the individual Commissioners' reviews.

As a result of Shawn's mentorship, the Commission and HPO was able to continue their work and avoid disruption or inconsistency to applicants and other City departments.

Beyond any temporary disruption, Shawn's continued mentorship and the resulting quality of Commission reviews has ensured the Commission will continue to have a positive impact for years to come.

As evident from applicant feedback and Commissioners, the positive effect of Shawn's mentorship stays with individuals beyond the review duration.

In his 11 years as a Commissioner, and magnified in his leadership as Chair, Shawn Conyer's impact on applicants, City staff, and his fellow Commissioners have meant good outcomes for the people and places of the Victorian Village Historic District and City of Columbus.

Jacquelyn Meisel
Senior Preservation Planner

neighborhood
DESIGNcenter
Creating Stronger Communities

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Gunzelman Architecture + Interiors

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Secretary
ISABELA GOULD
Executive Director

June 26, 2026

To: AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury

RE: Letter of Support - Shawn Conyers, AIA, NCARB for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026

Dear AIA Ohio Review Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Shawn's nomination for the AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026. I met Shawn in 2014, when, as President of the Board of Directors for the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC), he oversaw a key moment in the organization's leadership change. As I got to know Shawn in my new role and his continued service, I understood how much he truly embodied the mission of our organization – design as a right, not a privilege - from his own journey into the architectural profession, to his passion, personal investment and commitment well beyond that.

Shawn served an outstanding record 11-years on our board, having committed 2 additional years beyond his tenure to ensure the full and smooth transition into our new home. During his time, he served on various committees, provided construction administration for our office, mentored our staff and helped us maximize resources for the greatest community impact. His unwavering support and advocacy for our growing initiatives helped plant the seeds for our Youth CoLab Program, aimed at empowering younger generations into the design professions. In 2018, he received the Busser Award, our highest distinction for those who leave an undeniable mark on our organization and the communities we serve.

Since then, Shawn has remained a dedicated advocate for the NDC, continuing to provide board, leadership and organizational support. In 2023, our Youth CoLab was established as a summer studio for high school students. Shawn and Meyers + Associates have been one of our greatest and steadiest partners, through significant financial and in-kind contributions. Every year since, they have been hosting a firm visit, which has consistently ranked #1 in the students' experience of professional engagement. They have seen not only what it means to become an architect, to work in an office, on complex projects, but most importantly, the highest levels of commitment, extending far beyond the profession into our communities. Having been inspired by journeys such as Shawn's, four of our students who may have not thought that architecture was for them, are now pursuing degrees at various universities in Ohio, and one became a coordinator in the program.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recommend Shawn for the Mentor Award, he is most deserving in the many, gracious ways he has helped all of us grow, all these years.

Sincerely,

Isabela Gould

Executive Director
Neighborhood Design Center

AIA Ohio Board of Directors
c/o AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury
RE: Letter of Support- Shawn Conyers, AIA, NCARB for AIA Ohio Mentor Award 2026

June 28, 2026

Dear AIA Ohio Review Committee,

Few people in the architectural profession lead the way Shawn Conyers does, not through authority, but through genuine investment in the people around him. Over the past decade working alongside Shawn at Meyers+Associates, I have watched his influence shape careers, strengthen our office culture, and extend into the broader Columbus design community. I write as both a direct beneficiary of his mentorship and a witness to the impact of his leadership.

From the first project I worked on with Shawn, ten years ago, his ability to pause everything and give you his full attention stood out. This quality still holds true today. He taught me how to be confident in the room by creating opportunities for me to speak when I felt intimidated, and he encouraged me to build relationships on the job site directly rather than only through drawings. Most importantly, Shawn made me feel valued as a person which can be difficult in our profession. As a woman and a minority in this industry, that is not something to take for granted. Shawn understands that from his own experience, and because of that, he creates an environment where people feel valued, heard, and respected. It is the type of mentorship many hope to find in their careers, but I was fortunate enough to experience early in mine.

Shawn approaches leadership much like a coach approaches a team, recognizing that every person brings different strengths and abilities, and measuring success by the growth of those around him rather than his own recognition. His leadership style reflects the lessons of his background in athletics. His core belief that “if one of us succeeds, we all succeed” is the foundation of how he leads. He builds confidence, develops others, and creates opportunities for people to contribute and grow.

That same commitment extends beyond his direct mentorship. As a founding board member of NOMA Columbus, I experienced Shawn’s support as he championed our voices and shared his experiences from his service with the Neighborhood Design Center and the Victorian Village Commission. He understands the importance of diverse perspectives and consistently works to create stronger opportunities within our profession and community.

Shawn continues to invest in the next generation through programs like our office’s Design Discovery Days and our partnership with Neighborhood Design Center. His presence provides students with the opportunity to see a leader who is approachable, encouraging, and invested in their future. He has mentored person after person with the same consistency and care. He comes back. He checks in. He pours his knowledge into whoever is in front of him without reservation. His impact extends beyond the individual because the people he mentors carry forward the same values he demonstrates every day: collaboration, curiosity, respect, and a commitment to helping others succeed.

Shawn helped me find my own voice, allowing me to grow from a young aspiring designer into the Director of BIM by believing in my potential before I fully believed in it myself. That belief changed how I show up in every room I enter now, and how I try to show up for people I have the privilege to mentor myself. My own recent recognition by Autodesk as a 2026 40 Under 40 Honoree is something I am proud of but is inseparable from the example Shawn set.

Shawn has spent his career building people up and creating teams where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute. The same values he has modeled throughout his career are now being carried forward by those of us who have had the privilege of learning from him. This legacy is what this award should recognize. He leads with generosity, teaches with patience, and strengthens our profession through the people he inspires. I truly believe there is no one more deserving of AIA Ohio’s Mentor of the Year award than Shawn Conyers.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Flores, AIA Associate
Director of BIM, Meyers+Associates
Autodesk 2026 40 Under 40 Honoree