2026

Brett Wedding

AIA, AICP



AIA Ohio EP Award

Leadership in Practice & Service

Empowering others to shape the future of the profession by:

CREATING PATHWAYS to belonging, leadership, and community impact.

NOMINATION LETTER

HANNAH EVWARAYE, AIA, NCARB, NOMA

FANNING HOWEY

June 27, 2026

Dear Members of the AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury,

It is my privilege to recommend **Brett Wedding** for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. Few emerging professionals have influenced our profession at the local, state, and national levels as intentionally as Brett. Through our shared leadership within AIA Columbus, I have watched him create opportunities for others to become engaged, assume leadership roles, and grow within our profession. While Brett's professional record reflects an impressive history of leadership and advocacy, what has always stood out to me is his unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for fellow emerging professionals.

I have had the opportunity to work with Brett through several AIA Columbus initiatives, including the Chapter's strategic planning efforts, the Archway mentorship program, our annual Golf Outing, and efforts focused on strengthening engagement. In each of these efforts, he has demonstrated an uncommon ability to connect people, build community, and make the profession more accessible. He is intentional about welcoming new voices into leadership conversations and creating meaningful experiences that encourage long-term engagement with AIA.

Beyond our local chapter, I have admired Brett's leadership through the National Associates Committee. His advocacy for emerging professionals, commitment to strengthening pathways to licensure, and dedication to developing future leaders have expanded his impact far beyond Ohio. What impresses me most is that, even while serving nationally, he continues to invest in AIA Columbus, bringing new ideas and renewed energy back to our chapter.

I also witnessed this same mindset during our time together at Moody Nolan, where Brett invested in firm culture, encouraged colleagues to become engaged, and consistently championed the professional growth of others. His enthusiasm is contagious, and his leadership inspires participation wherever he serves.

What has always impressed me most about Brett is that his influence extends well beyond the projects or the committees he serves. He has become a connector within our profession. He understands that architecture is strengthened when diverse voices are welcomed, when students feel supported, and when emerging professionals are given meaningful opportunities to lead early in their careers.

Having had the privilege of receiving this award myself, I recognize the caliber of leadership it seeks to celebrate. Brett represents that standard exceptionally well. His leadership has already strengthened AIA Columbus, AIA Ohio, and AIA National, and I have every confidence that his influence will continue to shape the next generation of architects for many years to come.

I am confident Brett will continue to shape the future of our profession by opening doors for others, challenging the status quo, and inspiring emerging professionals to lead with purpose. I wholeheartedly recommend him for this recognition.

Sincerely,

Hannah Evwaraye, AIA, NCARB, NOMA
Director of Sports, Project Executive | Fanning Howey
hevwaraye@fhai.com

AIA Columbus
2026 Past President | AIA Columbus
2024-2026 AIA Board Knowledge Committee

ARCHITECTURE | INTERIORS | ENGINEERING

AIA COLUMBUS LETTER OF SUPPORT

ERIN REILLY-SANDERS, PHD, AIA

AIA Columbus

June 23, 2026

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

To the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Jury:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Brett Wedding, AIA, for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

As President of AIA Columbus, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Brett and witness firsthand the impact he has made on our chapter, our profession, and the next generation of architects. While his accomplishments at the local, state, and national levels are impressive, what distinguishes Brett most is his ability to connect people to opportunities, resources, and one another.

Brett is the founder and chair of the AIA Columbus LGBTQIA+ Alliance, a group he established to create a welcoming and supportive community within the profession. Under his leadership, the Alliance has become an active and visible presence within our chapter, organizing networking and educational opportunities and participating in the Columbus Stonewall Pride March for the past three years. In a challenging environment for LGBTQIA+ inclusion, Brett has remained thoughtful and steadfast in creating spaces where members feel seen, valued, and connected.

Brett also creates meaningful opportunities for emerging professionals to engage with the profession through programs such as Wine and Networking with the Fellows, How to Start a Firm Speed Networking, and the AIAS + AIA Columbus Networking Picnic. By bringing students and young architects together with experienced practitioners—including members of the College of Fellows—he helps build connections that foster mentorship, leadership development, and long-term engagement in the profession.

His leadership extends beyond AIA Columbus. Brett served on the AIA Ohio Board of Directors and played a key role in planning the 2023 AIA Ohio Conference. As Chair of the AIA National Associates Committee, he has represented thousands of associate members nationwide, advocating for emerging professionals, improving pathways to licensure, and expanding opportunities for engagement and leadership. At every level of service, Brett works to remove barriers and help others find their place within the profession.

For his outstanding leadership, service, and dedication to creating pathways for future architects, I wholeheartedly recommend Brett Wedding for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

Graciously submitted,

Erin Reilly-Sanders, AIA
President, AIA Columbus

The American Institute of Architects Columbus
50 West Town Street, Suite 110
Columbus, OH 43215

614-469-1973
www.aiacolumbus.org

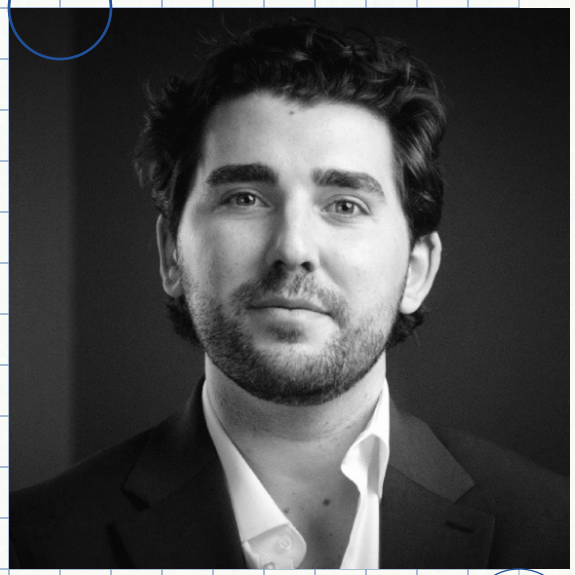
Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is shaping the future of the profession by creating pathways to **belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.

EDUCATION

Master of City & Regional Planning
Graduate Minor: Non-Profit Management
The Knowlton School of Architecture
The Ohio State University, 2022

Master of Architecture
Thesis: *To the River, To the Wall*
The Knowlton School of Architecture
The Ohio State University, 2022

Bachelor of Science in Architecture
Minor: Spanish
The Knowlton School of Architecture
The Ohio State University, 2020



EXPERIENCE

American Electric Power – *Columbus, Ohio*
Workplace Services, Architect, 2025 – Present

Moody Nolan – *Columbus, Ohio*
Project Designer x Studio 9, 2022 – 2025

The City of Grandview Heights
Project Consultant, 2023 – 2025
Planner II, 2021 – 2022

Woolpert Engineering – *Dayton, OH*
Intern, Architecture, 2019 – 2021

SJB Architects – *Sydney, Australia*
Intern, Summer 2018

HONORS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **AIA Columbus Engage Grant** 2026
- AIA Ohio Student Design Competition 1st place 2022
- ULI Heinz National Student Design Competition, Honorable Mention 2022
- **Western Golf Association,**
- **Chick Evans Scholarship** 2016 - 2020
- AIA Columbus x Knowlton School Office Associates Scholarship 2020
- The Ohio State University College of Engineering First Year Fellowship 2020
- Alpha Chi Omega, Man of the Year 2020
- The Columbus Foundation, Architecture Research Travel Award (ARTA) Grant 2019

REGISTRATION:

American Institute of Architects ***2024***
American Institute of Certified Planners ***2024***

AIA LEADERSHIP

AIA National Associates Committee
Chair, *2026*
Vice Chair, *2025*
Deputy Director, Advocacy, *2023 - 2024*
Strategic Council Associate Liaison, *2024*

AIA Ohio
Membership Engagement Committee *2025*
State & Territory Area Representative to the NAC, *2023 - 2024*

AIA Columbus
Founder & Chair of the AIA Alliance Group, *2023 – Present*

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Wedding, Brett and Bill Hercules. “Bridging Generations: Cof and NAC.” College of Fellows Quarterly, June 2026.

The American Institute of Architects. “AIA Future Focused - Brett Wedding, Assoc. AIA.” June 2024

Wedding, Brett. “Architecture from New Perspectives vol. 2” The Knowlton School of Architecture, September 2019.

Wedding, Brett. “Architecture from New Perspectives” The Knowlton School of Architecture, September 2018.

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.



Creating Pathways to **Belonging**

Exhibit 1: AIA Columbus Alliance Group **Exhibit 2:** EP Engagement **Exhibit 3:** Knowlton School

Brett believes that leadership begins with belonging. Through local engagement with AIA Columbus, mentorship initiatives, and the creation of inclusive professional networks, he has worked to ensure that students, emerging professionals, and underrepresented voices feel welcomed within the profession. His efforts have connected emerging professionals with Fellows, expanded mentorship opportunities, and created new spaces where architects can build meaningful relationships and professional confidence.



Creating Pathways to **Leadership**

Exhibit 4: National Associates Committee Chair **Exhibit 5:** AIA Ohio **Exhibit 6:** Deputy Director

Brett has dedicated his service to removing barriers and creating opportunities for future leaders. Through his work with the National Associates Committee, AIA Ohio, and AIA National, he has advocated for licensure accessibility, stronger representation for Associate members, and clearer professional pathways. His leadership has empowered emerging professionals to engage in the profession, develop their leadership skills, and recognize their own ability to create change.



Creating Pathways to **Community Impact**

Exhibit 7: National Design Impact **Exhibit 8:** Swope Health VIllage

As an architect and planner, Brett views design as a tool for expanding opportunity. Across more than $600 million in project work, he has contributed to affordable housing, civic projects, workplace environments, infrastructure, and community-centered development. His work seeks to improve quality of life, strengthen communities, and create places that reflect the people they serve. Through design, Brett creates pathways to opportunity at the scale of neighborhoods, cities, and regions.

Pictures, top to bottom: AIA Alliance Group at Pride 2026, NAC26 Annual Meeting at AIA GCAD, Groundbreaking at Scarborough Senior Housing, National Church Residences in Columbus, OH

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.

Exhibit 1:
AIA Columbus Alliance Group Founder & Chair











Designing a More Inclusive Future
Alongside partners in IIDA OH/KY & NOMA Columbus

Pictured Above, Clockwise from the left:

AIA Alliance Group at Pride 2026, The 2026 Parade Float Alliance Group 3rd Birthday Party, The Alliance Group Founding Meeting in 2023, All Hands in at the 2026 Pride Parade

Roles & Responsibilities:

- While attending the 2023 NAC Annual Meeting and 2024 Leadership Summit, Brett was introduced to Sarah Woynicz, AIA (2027-2030 At-Large Director, AIA National), and was inspired to bring a dedicated Alliance Group to Columbus. What started as a fun idea for quarterly meetings grew into an interdisciplinary group of designers, builders, realtors, and others who banded together to form a community and participate in the Stonewall Columbus Pride Parade!
- This group has hosted gallery style events, partnered with the local Women in Architecture Committee, and creates a space for designers of all backgrounds to network and celebrate one another.
- Because of the formation of this group, AIA Columbus joins a national network of Alliance partnerships, focused on broadening access to the profession and sharing knowledge of the many career paths in the design industry.

Role Impact:

- Expanded the AIA Columbus Diversity x Design Committee, joining alongside Women in Architecture
- Hosted Quarterly Happy Hour Series across different firms and LGBTQIA+ Businesses in Central Ohio
- 3 Year Participation in Stonewall Columbus Pride
- Local Partnership & Engagement of local firms in $5,000 fundraising efforts.

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.

Exhibit 2: AIA Columbus Emerging Professional Group

- **Wine Tasting with the Fellows**
  - Prepared a full menu of global wines, paired with charcuterie and snacks, while sharing information and buildings based in the regions
  - In between tastings, Emerging Professionals and Fellows were encouraged to mingle, answer questions focused on mentorship and career growth, and build their relationships
- **Middle School Career Immersion Day**
  - The Emerging Professionals Group within Moody Nolan hosted a local middle school to come and meet with the Moody Family, learn about Architecture as a career path, and were invited to design their own school.
- **Speed Mentoring**
  - Meeting with various firm owners, fellows, and licensed architects, the group of emerging professionals was able to have an open dialogue with their peers and gained insight into career goals and planning.
- Freedom by Design
  - Brett served as a mentor for a group of OSU students who partnered with West High School in Columbus. Monthly meetings allowed the university students to share awareness of Architecture as a pathway.








Exhibit 3: Knowlton School Student Mentorship

- AIA Columbus and the Knowlton School often partner for various events. Most recently, the Mentorship Picnic allowed Brett to meet with new students and local professionals alike.
- Brett is often invited to serve as a guest juror at the Knowlton School of Architecture, assisting with final reviews of students at all levels in their careers.
- Brett was the first student in the Knowlton School to pursue concurrent Masters in Architecture and City & Regional Planning, creating a pathway for future students to pursue a newly formalized curriculum.

> ***"It is this desire to give a voice to the voiceless, to welcome everyone into the fold, regardless of background or belief, and to encourage others to be heard that has defined Brett's career to this point."***
>
> *-Tom Mahoney, AIA*

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...belonging, **leadership**, and community impact.

Exhibit 4:
2026 Chair of the National Associates Committee











22,000 Associate Members
Represented to the AIA Board of Directors

Pictured Above, Clockwise from the left:

Brett & Carole Wedge, FAIA at NAC Annual Meeting, 2026 NAC Advisory Committee, NAC Reps at the AIA26 NextGen Lounge, Brett & NAC Reps at Leadership Summit, Brett & Katie Cherrier (2026 NAC Vice Chair) Presenting to the AIA Board of Directors at AIA26.

Roles & Responsibilities:

- Lead National Voice of 22,000 Associate Members to the AIA Board through the lens of career development; including access to licensure, membership value, and networking.
- Organize Quarterly Meetings of 51 State & Territory Area representatives (STARs) + 10 Advisory Committee Members, alongside monthly AdCom calls and all 5 monthly work group calls
- Host Annual Meeting in February 2026, focus on team building, themed around the 2026 Winter Olympics, to kick off year. 1st Committee to host event at AIA Global Campus in Washington D.C.
- Attend AIA National Events and host Candidate forums with the Young Architects Forum (YAF)
- Establish and further develop relationships with other AIA groups: College of Fellows, YAF, ArchiPAC, Governance Task Force, Government Advocacy Committee, AIA Staff, etc.
- Host end of Year Transition Meeting & Submit Annual Report to AIA Board of Directors

Role Firsts:

- Attended Annual Board Meeting as a NAC Voice, Shared Committee Updates
- Welcomed Bill Hercules, FAIA, to the AdCom - the first CoF Liaison to the NAC
- Created Resource Library for STARs
- Hosted CEO in person at Annual Meeting
- Created LinkedIn Page for outreach
- Hosted Orientation for EP Grant Recipients for AIA26
- Partnered with Governance Task Force

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.

- ***While representing Ohio on the National Associates Committee, Brett had two additional leadership roles:***

Exhibit 5: AIA Ohio Board of Directors *2023 - 2024*

- In this role, Brett served on the Membership Engagement Committee and oversaw the planning of 3 ***statewide Conferences on Design***: 2023, 2024, and 2025, serving on the Student Design Competition Jury to pay it forward for the next generation of Ohio Architects. Brett also helped organize and attended the ***2024 AIA Ohio Advocacy Day.***
- While attending quarterly board meetings, Brett assisted with developing the ***AIA Ohio Strategic Plan for 2026 - 2030*** and hopes to engage with the organizing of a regional/tri-state conference on design in the coming years.





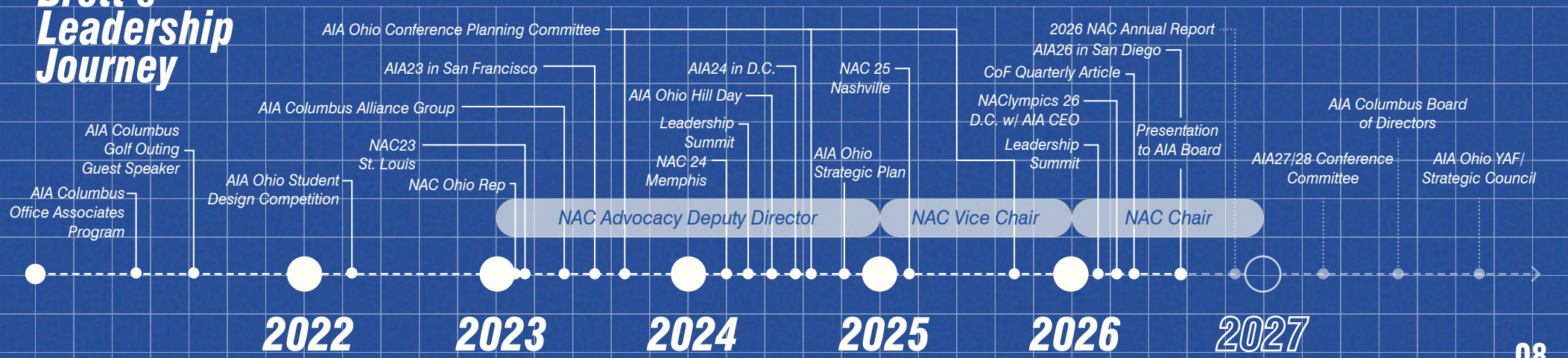
Exhibit 6: NAC Advocacy Work Group *Deputy Director*

- While volunteering as Deputy Director, Brett led meetings with ***NCARB***, ***State Licensing Boards***, and the ***AIA Governance Advocacy Committee*** to ***retire the rolling clock policy*** and ***standardize titling*** for Associate members, formally recommending the "***Associate Architect***" to NCARB.
- Brett was selected by AIA National to represent the Next Generation of Architects in the ***AIA Future Focused Campaign***.
- Brett's network has expanded by attending 3 National Conferences, 2 Leadership Summits, 3 State Conferences, and 4 NAC Annual Meetings.

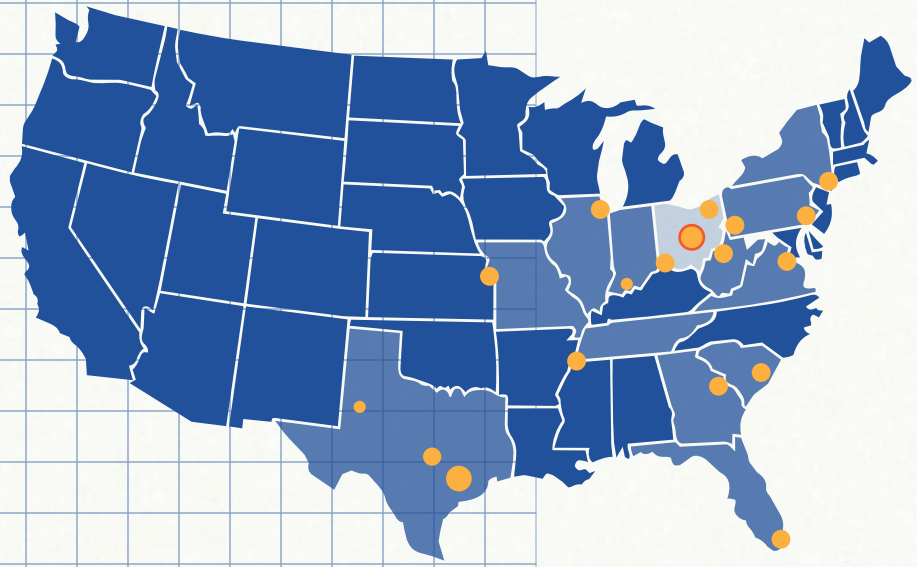




Brett's Leadership Journey



Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact.**



$600M
Construction

13
States with Design Impact

75
Innovative Behavioral Health Housing Units

Leading Design for Communities

Exhibit 7: Shaping Cities with Intentional Design

Roles & Impact:

- Working as a Project Designer, and then licensed architect, at Moody Nolan, Brett was able to leverage his background in City Planning to create meaningful urban spaces across project scales. He approached each project with an enthusiasm and opportunity to learn, while championing design excellence in multifamily housing.
  - In this role, Brett worked on Convention Centers, Museums, Student Housing, Senior Housing, and even helped launch a National Planning Studio within the Firm.
- In Brett's Current role with American Electric Power, he works alongside an interdisciplinary team to implement Service Centers in rural communities, increasing access to reliable and safe power sources for residents in the Appalachian Region.
  - Brett's current project also focuses on redefining in-person office work, as he re-imagines the company's headquarter tower in the heart of Columbus, Ohio.

While at work, Brett consistently seeks out opportunities to help. Though relatively new at AEP, Brett chairs the PRIDE employee resource group and led an effort to establish pay equity for recent graduates while in a previous role.



Columbus, OH



Columbus, OH



Columbus, OH



Nashville, TN



Miami, FL



Competition Entry



Cincinnati, OH

Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP is creating pathways to...**belonging**, **leadership**, and **community impact**.

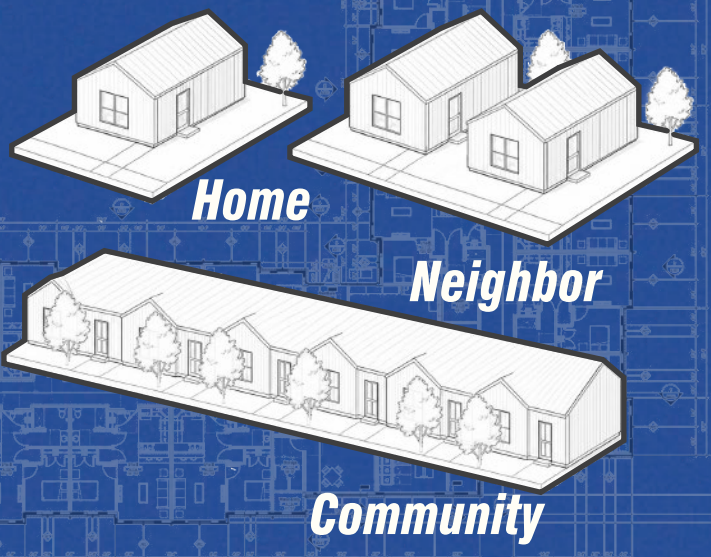






Exhibit 8: Swope Health Village | Kansas City, Missouri

- The Swope Health Village was an innovative approach to Behavioral Health treatment and created an exciting opportunity to help a community in need. The development served as the patient's last phase of treatment before moving back home to live independently.
- Taking the **patient journey as inspiration**, Brett led a team of architects to imagine a community of units designed around a central plaza. The design of the **iconic "home"** was meant to give a sense of agency and belonging to the residents and encouraged them to meet their **neighbors**. The broader grouping of the structures evokes a sense of **community** through form.
- The project is currently under construction and will be a part of a broader health campus that was planned in partnership with Perkins + Eastman.
- Once completed, the building will be mirrored across a central greenspace, offering 75 residents a pathway back to their independence.



LETTER OF SUPPORT
ALEXANDRA OETZEL, AIA

Moody Nolan

June 2026

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

Dear AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury,

It is my pleasure to highly recommend Brett Wedding, AIA, for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. Over the past four years, I have worked alongside Brett as a colleague at Moody Nolan and through AIA initiatives at the local, state, and national levels. Across every setting, I have witnessed the same quality emerge: Brett has an extraordinary ability to multiply the impact of the people and organizations around him.

One of Brett's favorite stories — and the foundation of his AIA journey — is receiving an AIA Ohio student design award at the Cleveland Design Symposium. I remember that day well, but I never imagined how often our paths would continue to cross. Since then, I have had the privilege of watching him grow into one of AIA Ohio's most influential emerging professional leaders.

During our tenure at Moody Nolan, Brett elevated both the quality of design and the culture of practice that surrounds it. His fearless optimism and curiosity consistently lead teams toward site-specific, community-centered ideas. I experienced this firsthand while collaborating with Brett on the Rice 12 competition, where his confidence and willingness to challenge convention inspired our team to pursue a mass timber high-rise. Although the project was never realized, the design made such a lasting impression that the client continued to reference — a testament to Brett's ability to create memorable, forward-looking work.

Brett brings that same energy to service. He creates momentum, builds confidence, and inspires others to get involved. Whether mentoring Knowlton students, helping launch the AIA Columbus LGBTQIA+ Alliance group, or advancing titling act conversations with AIA Associate members, Brett consistently strengthens our organization. That impact was recognized nationally when, after just one year as Ohio's Representative to the National Associates Committee (NAC), his peers elected him Vice Chair — an uncommon vote of confidence that reflects both the trust he engenders and his commitment to elevating others.

Brett embodies the spirit of the Emerging Professional Honor Award: he leads with purpose, serves with good humor, and advances our profession through design excellence and meaningful engagement. It is a joy to work alongside him!

Sincerely,

Alexandra Oetzel

Alexandra Oetzel, AIA
Associate, Project Architect
aoetzel@moodynolan.com

LETTER OF SUPPORT
TOM MAHONEY, AIA

June 24, 2026

AIA Ohio EP Award
Letter of Support
On Behalf of Brett Wedding

To President Setterfield & AIA Ohio Awards Jury:

It is a privilege and pleasure to offer my support for the recommendation of Brett Wedding as recipient of the AIA Ohio EP Award.

Brett has been a student, mentee, coworker, collaborator, and friend of mine for the better part of a decade. During this time, I have watched Brett blossom from a green–but always eager and passionate–student to a leading voice within the Architecture community for acceptance, advocacy, and thoughtful, community-focused design, both at a local and national level. It is this desire to give a voice to the voiceless, to welcome everyone into the fold, regardless of background or belief, and to encourage others to be heard that has defined Brett's career to this point. These desires can best be seen through the numerous Emerging Professionals events we hosted together; his founding of the AIA Columbus Alliance, providing meaningful visibility to LGBTQIA+ designers; and through our design work we completed for underserved communities across the country, striving to provide accessible housing and wrap-around services.

A good mentor always wishes to see their mentees grow, mature, and eventually surpass the abilities or reach that they hold. It has been my absolute pleasure to watch Brett do as much and more. I can think of no one better or more deserving for an award that embodies young professionals reaching outside of their comfort zone, impacting those around them, both personally and professionally, and emerging as future leaders of the industry.

During the recent Columbus Pride March, Brett organized a group of Architects and Interior Designers to participate in the parade as representatives of the profession, providing allyship and visibility to those who may some day wish to pursue a career in the field. The shirts Brett designed, which we all proudly wore, professed a simple but well stated message: Designing a More Inclusive Future. I believe this message exemplifies where Brett's passions lie, how his work has been focused, and what he aims to accomplish through the remainder of his career as a steward for the voiceless.

Best,

Tom Mahoney AIA, NCARB
Fmr. Chair, AIA Columbus EP Committee
Sr. Designer / Market Lead - Mixed-Use
MA Design

LETTER OF SUPPORT

BILL HERCULES, FAIA

WJH HEALTH

18 June 2026

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

RE: **Brett Wedding, AIA for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award**

Dear Members of the Jury,

I wholeheartedly recommend Brett Wedding, AIA for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. Having actively participated with Brett in my working role liaising between the AIA College of Fellows Executive Committee and Brett's chairmanship of the National Associates Committee has given me a unique perspective to Brett's leadership and care for the 20,000 AIA Associates across the Institute.

Admittedly, my interactions with Brett do not span many years, but in the short time that I've worked with him, I've become quickly convinced of his ability to energize and align a diverse team of State & Territory Architectural Representatives toward strategic goals and effectively monitor the results. As a lifelong student of leadership myself, I was quickly impressed with Brett's leadership prowess. Upon learning of Brett's native Columbus, Ohio, I immediately connected him with my long-time friend and colleague, Peter Bardwell, FAIA, FACHA because of the potential I saw in Brett's leadership and Peter's ability to invest in talented architects nationally. For example, because of Brett, the NAC has built on relationships with the national Strategic Council, College of Fellows, and the Governance Task Force. Brett was the first Chair of the NAC to present to the Board of Directors during their Annual Meeting at AIA26.

During the NAC's annual meeting in Washington DC, I participated with the NAC under Brett's leadership in the first NAC-lympics – a team-building exercise concurrent with the 2026 Winter Olympiad. When I offered to provide ARE study materials to Associates who did not have access to them, Brett developed a Lending Library for those, and other resources related to AXP and ARE preparation. I connected Brett with the NEXUS mentoring program to connect Fellows with emerging professionals, and the NAC is considering assumption of that program.

It is for all of these specific reasons that I hold Brett Wedding as an exemplar of other emerging professionals to follow. I enthusiastically support his pursuit of the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

Sincerely,

William J. Hercules, FAIA, FACHA, FACHE
CEO & Founder, WJH Health
2018 President, American College of Healthcare Architects
Bursar, and 2028 presumptive Chancellor, AIA College of Fellows

LETTER OF SUPPORT

LAUREN HARRIS, AIA, NCARB

President Setterfield
2026 AIA Ohio Awards Committee
American Institute of Architects Ohio

June 27,2026

To President Setterfield and the Members of the AIA Ohio Awards Selection Committee:

With great enthusiasm, I would like to recommend Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP, for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award.

As the 2024 Chair of the National Associates Committee (NAC) and a current New Jersey Representative to the Strategic Council, I have worked alongside emerging professionals from across the country. Brett distinguishes himself through his unique ability to blend leadership, advocacy, and service in ways that open doors and create meaningful opportunities for others. Through my years on the NAC, I have come to realize that true leadership and mentorship are skills that few possess, and Brett has had tremendous success leading the National Associates Committee in achieving a vision that has truly benefited AIA committees and chapters beyond his own. Through the forging of these relationships, and the support of his team, Brett has consistently contributed to Associates and Young Architects.

I first met Brett during the 2023 National Associates Committee Annual Meeting in St. Louis, where he represented Ohio as a State and Territory Associate Representative. While relatively new to national leadership, he immediately distinguished himself through his initiative, curiosity, and commitment to service. Rather than simply participating, Brett volunteered to serve as Deputy Director of the Advocacy Work Group, a position typically held by second-term representatives. In that role, he led research efforts examining how Associate membership is defined and recognized across the profession, working directly with leaders from both AIA and NCARB to better understand licensure pathways and membership classifications. His willingness to step into leadership early, tackle complex issues, and advocate for his peers demonstrated a high level of maturity and dedication.

Over the following years, I have watched Brett grow into one of the most impactful emerging leaders within the AIA. Whether serving as Deputy Director of the Advocacy Work Group, representing Ohio nationally at the Leadership Summit, or participating in AIA's Future Focused campaign, Brett consistently approaches leadership as an opportunity to create pathways for others. He has a unique ability to connect people, foster belonging, and expand opportunities for students, emerging professionals, and future architects. Through his advocacy for licensure and professional development, Brett has strengthened the experience of countless Associate at the local, state, and national scale, all while helping others recognize their own potential to lead.

When Brett applied to serve as the 2026 Chair of the National Associates Committee, I had complete confidence in his ability to lead and celebrate his peers. The selection committee unanimously chose him because of his integrity, enthusiasm, and unwavering dedication to service. Brett leads by listening, empowering others, and ensuring that every voice is valued.

Brett represents the future of our profession: thoughtful, service-oriented, and deeply committed to helping others thrive. Through his professional work, service to the Institute, and investment in the next generation of architects, he has already made a significant impact on the profession. I offer my strongest recommendation for his selection as a recipient of the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award.

Sincerely,

Libertad Lauren Harris, AIA, NCARB
Regional Digital Delivery Lead US North Central and South
Senior Associate and Senior BIM and VDC Manager
Stantec Architecture and Engineering

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AIA NEW JERSEY | *Strategic Councilor: 2026-2028*
AIA WEST JERSEY | *President: 2024*
AIA | *Chair, National Associates Committee: 2024*
AIA | *ArchiPAC Steering Committee: 2024*
AIA NEW JERSEY | *Chair, Committee on the Environment: 2021-2023*
AIA NEW JERSEY | *Chair, Women in Architecture: 2019-2023*