PERSPECTUS

25 YEARS

July 1, 2026

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

AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Nomination – Gwendolyn Frank

Dear AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury:

I enthusiastically nominate Gwendolyn Frank, AIA for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award in the **Service Category** and **Leadership in Practice Category** for her service to the profession, commitment to the community and to her contributions in enhancing our firm's practice. Gwendolyn is a devoted leader in the architecture community and is a passionate contributor to important initiatives within our firm, earning much deserved recognition as an emerging leader in the architecture profession.

In Gwendolyn's eight years with Perspectus, she has proven to be an invaluable member of the team as a lead contributor on several of our most important projects. She brings enthusiasm for solving design challenges, communicating with project teams, and ensuring that our projects achieve the aspirations of its client and community. My colleagues and I have witnessed Gwendolyn's growth from a new graduate to a Project Architect on notable projects including First Congregational Church of Claridon (Cleveland Restoration Society Award for Excellence for Stewardship of an Ecclesiastical Building), Firelands Health Sandusky Healthcare Center, St. Ignatius High School Campus Expansion, and MetroHealth Outpatient Health Center among many other healthcare, historic architecture, and education projects.

Gwendolyn's contributions in our office go beyond buildings. She chairs the New Employee Orientation Program, is our High School Shadow Program Lead, advisor for licensure candidates, member of our Innovation Tiger Team, and is involved in many more office initiatives and events. Simply put, her commitment to creating an engaging and supportive workplace has shaped the culture of our firm.

Gwendolyn has been an extremely active member of the Ohio and Cleveland chapters of AIA and has served in director roles in both organizations. Her leadership and commitment to AIA Cleveland initiatives has earned her the 2023 Emerging Professional Award and a 2025 Presidential Citation. Her notable work in supporting early career design professionals is exemplified by her instrumental role in creating the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program that recognizes firms who meet high standards for the growth of rising design professionals. Her role in advocating for workplace environments that support emerging professionals has led to speaking engagements at the AIA National Conference, AIA Ohio Conference and at architecture schools around Ohio. Her passion for mentorship and educating aspiring architects extends beyond AIA, as a past mentor with the ACE Mentorship Program and as a current Faculty Member in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Second Year Design Studio.

Gwendolyn exemplifies a commitment to elevating the practice of architecture through her work in growing the next generation of design leaders. Her energy for service is unmatched and provides inspiration not only to emerging architects but to seasoned practitioners who are energized by her ability to bring out the talent in each individual while delivering exceptional design work and client service.

Sincerely,

Bradley W Fink

Bradley Fink, AIA, ACHA
Principal
AIA Ohio Public Service Award, 2010

AIA Cleveland

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

June 17, 2026

AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award
AIA Cleveland Letter of Support

Dear Committee Members,

I am honored to submit this letter of support on behalf of AIA Cleveland for Gwendolyn Frank, AIA. In her eight years as a member of the chapter, Gwendolyn has distinguished herself through extraordinary service to the Institute at both the local and state levels.

Gwendolyn is deeply passionate about supporting those entering the profession. As AIA Ohio Early Professional Director and now as State Licensing Advisor, she has dedicated herself to mentoring associate members and guiding them on their path to licensure. During her tenure as Early Professional Director, she helped establish the AIA Ohio Early Professional Firm Friendly Survey, now in its fifth year, which has become an important tool for understanding and improving the experiences of emerging professionals. She works tirelessly to strengthen the profession and create opportunities for the next generation of architects.

In addition to her state-level service, Gwendolyn has served AIA Cleveland as Chapter Secretary. During her second year in this role, the chapter operated without an Executive Director for three quarters of the year. Gwendolyn went far beyond the responsibilities of her office, playing an instrumental role in maintaining chapter operations. From communications and event coordination to implementing process improvements, her leadership and commitment ensured continuity during a challenging period.

Gwendolyn embodies kindness, compassion, and intellectual curiosity. She is never afraid to ask questions and continually seeks ways to learn, grow, and elevate those around her.

AIA Cleveland is profoundly grateful for Gwendolyn's leadership, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the profession. She exemplifies the spirit of the Emerging Professional Award and is most deserving of this recognition.

Sincerely,

Megan Pros, AIA
President, AIA Cleveland

Mission:
AIA Cleveland uplifts our members and profession to engage and inspire our community through the power of architecture.



Gwendolyn F. Frank AIA

As an architect, the best outcome is knowing that you have created a space where people feel comfortable making it their own and enjoying it. Watching a space transform through use in ways beyond what could have been imagined is truly enriching.

WORK
Project Architect, Perspectus

EDUCATION
Master of Architecture
Kent State University *2018*

Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Kent State University *2017*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
Kent State University, Adjunct Faculty *August 2025 - Present*

Kent State University, Teaching Assistant *Fall 2017 & Spring 2018*

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Facilities Management, and Project Management Intern
June 2016 - August 2016 & May 2017 - August 2017

REGISTRATION
Registered Architect, Ohio *2021*

American Institute of Architects (AIA) *2018*

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

University Hospitals
Cleveland, Ohio
Main Campus Radiology Projects *2024*
Tripoint Medical Center - New Cancer Center *Ongoing*

Surgical Hospital at Southwoods
Boardman, Ohio
North + South Building Addition *2023*

Mercy Health
Youngstown, Ohio
St. Elizabeth ED Lobby Renovation *Ongoing*
St. Elizabeth ICU Renovation *2025*

MetroHealth System
Cleveland, Ohio
Outpatient Health Center + Administrative Suites *Ongoing*

Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services Board of Lorain County
Lorain, Ohio
Crisis Receiving Center *2025*

Pepper Pike Club
Pepper Pike, Ohio
Clubhouse Repairs & Finishes *2023*

Mansfield Art Center
Mansfield, Ohio
Classroom Expansion + Pavilion *2021*
- *AIA Ohio Design Award - Award of Merit, 2023*
- *AIA Cleveland Design Awards - Honor Award, 2022*

First Congregational Church of Claridon
Huntsburg, Ohio
Church Restoration *2023*
- *State Historic Preservation Office - Preservation Merit 2024*

Saint Ignatius High School
Cleveland, Ohio
Major Campus Expansion *2025*

City of Highland Heights
Highland Heights, Ohio
Council Chamber Renovation + Implementation *2022*

> ***Having the privilege of working on a project in every one of Perspectus's market sectors has been educational and rewarding to see the extent this profession can impact the public.***

JURIES

- **Cleveland Restoration Society Celebration of Preservation Jury** 2023 - 2024
- **Cleveland Construction Employers Association (CEA) Awards** 2022

PRESENTATIONS

- **AIA National Conference, Washington D.C.** 2024
  - *"Building Talent: Strategies for Effective Early Professional Development in Firms"*
- **The Ohio State University AIAS & Kent State University AIAS Presentations - Virtual / Kent, OH** 2024
  - *"Find Your Friendly Firm"*
- **AIA Ohio Conference** 2023
  - *"How to Make Friends and Influence Firms: A Review of the AIA Ohio Early Professional Friendly Firms"*
- **AIA Cleveland Coffee with Fellows Program - Virtual** 2022
  - *"Coffee with Fellows Volume 3, Session 03: Bruce Sekanick, FAIA, and Gwendolyn Frank, AIA"*

Gwendolyn speaking at the 2024 AIA National Conference in Washington, D.C.



SUPPORTING EXHIBITS

POSITIONS / INVOLVEMENT

AIA Cleveland

- Secretary — 2024 - 2025
- Young Associates and Architects Members Committee — 2018 - Present
- Design Awards Committee — 2019 - Present

AIA Ohio

- State Licensing Advisor — 2023 - Present
- Early Professional Director (formerly Associate Director) — 2021 - 2022
  - Gwendolyn started a statewide effort to connect associate leaders in the state. Co-chaired a task force to initiate an Early Professional Friendly Firm Program and subsequent updates. Actively participated in multiple task forces. Advocated for the early professionals at state board meetings.

AIAS (Kent State University)

- Member — 2014 - 2018
- Vice President — 2016 - 2017
- AIA Akron Liaison — 2017 - 2018

ACE Mentorship Program, Cleveland

- Max S. Hayes High School Project Lead — 2024 - 2025
- Max S. Hayes High School Mentor — 2022 - 2024

Cleveland Playhouse Partners

- Young Professionals Group — 2023 - 2025

> Beyond her contributions to project work, Gwendolyn is deeply engaged in advancing the profession and supporting her community. She brings energy, creativity, and a strong sense of purpose to everything she does, demonstrating the qualities of a well-rounded professional who is poised for continued success.
>
> *- Mike Lipowski, AIA, ACHA, LEED AP*
> *Managing Principal, Perspectus*



Gwendolyn assisting her ACE Mentor students, 2025

SUPPORTING EXHIBITS

The Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland provided a profound understanding about the full life of a building. Specifically, once the designer moves on, seeing how a building truly operates through the eyes of the strategic planners, building maintenance, security, and the everyday employees. Buildings are living and ever-changing, so the details matter.

Personal Awards

- **AIA Cleveland Presidential Citation** 2025
- **AIA Cleveland Emerging Professional Award** 2023
- **Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo Emerging Leaders Scholarship** 2023
- **Kent State University Master of Architecture Service Award** 2018
  - Awarded to a student who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to their community through service
- **Kent State University Master of Architecture Faculty Award** 2018
- **Kent State University College of Architecture and Environmental Design Director's Award** 2017
  - Awarded for outstanding contribution to and support of the architecture program and the college
- **Tau Sigma Delta - Scholastic Honor Society**
  - The Society recognizes intellectual achievement, effort and initiative as well as leadership and character
- **Numerous Scholarship Recipient, including:**
  - AIA Ohio Scholarship
  - Armstrong Family Scholarship
  - Nader Hamad Scholarship
  - Morbito Study Abroad Scholarship
  - AIA Akron Scholarship

Project Awards

- **Cleveland Restoration Society - Award of Excellence for Stewardship of an Ecclesiastical Building** 2024
  - First Congregational Church of Claridon
- **AIA Ohio Design Awards - Award of Merit** 2023
  - Mansfield Arts Center Classroom and Expansion
- **AIA Cleveland Design Awards - Honor Award** 2022
  - Mansfield Arts Center Classroom and Expansion

Gwendolyn with the Perspectus team after being honored with the 2023 Early Professional Award at the AIA Cleveland Design Awards



SUPPORTING EXHIBITS

Variety is the magic of architecture. It is not about repeating the same activities every day, but about exploring everything that is possible through design and within the culture of the profession. I strive to share my unique perspective within the design world and the broader communities we serve as architects.

OFFICE LEADERSHIP + CULTURE

Perspectus	**2018 - Present**
› Orientation/Onboarding Committee	2021 - Present
› CANstruction Team Member	2019, 2022 - 2024
› Model Production Lead	2018 - 2020
› ARE Material Librarian	2019 - Present
› Career Fair Representative	2019 - 2020, 2025
› Perspectus Committee for AIA Ohio Early Professional-Friendly Firm Designation	2021 - Present
› Firm Licensing Advisor + Shadow Program Lead	2021 - Present
› Documentation Committee	2021 - 2023
› Innovation Tiger Team Committee Member	2023 - Present

Gwendolyn is a passionate advocate for emerging architectural professionals whose leadership has strengthened Perspectus' mentorship and licensure support programs while fostering the growth of interns, co-ops, and recent graduates. Her dedication to advancing professional development has helped establish Perspectus as a recognized leader in mentoring emerging professionals, earning the firm AIA Ohio's Emerging Professional Friendly Firm PLUS designation.

- Vladimir Novakovic, AIA
Principal, Perspectus



Architecture can only represent a community if it has the voice of the community. The future of design is about eliminating the gate keeping and celebrating the differences which will lead to the unimagined.

Gwendolyn at the Cleveland Restoration Society Celebration of Historic Preservation, where Perspectus was honored with a Preservation Merit Award for the First Congregational Church of Claridon restoration project, 2024

SUPPORTING EXHIBITS

Much of my work has been focused on improving the design profession for the next generation of designers. My own journey was often self-guided and exploratory. Since then, I have been fortunate to advocate for others and help guide them as they blaze their own paths. Progress is not achieved by having designers repeat the same trials those before them have already overcome.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CAED) INVOLVEMENT

- **Adjunct Faculty** — **2025 - present**
  - Second Year Design Studio I & II
- **Guest Studio Review Critic**
  - Fourth Year & Second Year Design Studio
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
  - Global Architecture I
  - Second Year Studio

> Gwendolyn approaches challenges with a positive attitude and a willingness to take initiative, making her a dependable team member who can be trusted with increasing levels of responsibility. As an emerging professional, Gwendolyn has shown impressive leadership skills and the ability to positively influence those around her.
>
> *- Ray Minotas, AIA, ACHA, LEED AP*
> *Principal, Perspectus*



Perspectus Winning Team at AIA Cleveland Design Awards, 2024



Gwendolyn being honored with the Emerging Professional award at the AIA Cleveland Design Awards, 2023



Gwendolyn being honored with the Presidential Citation at the AIA Cleveland Design Awards, 2025

KSU Spring Semester Studio site visit with class



Gwendolyn at the 2024 ACE Mentorship Final Presentation as a Mentor for Max S. Hayes High School



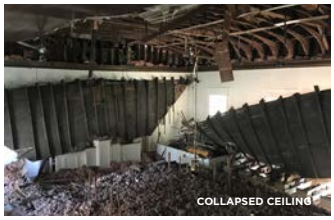
SUPPORTING EXHIBITS





Mansfield Art Center - Classroom Addition
(Winner of AIA Cleveland Design Award of Honor, 2022)









First Congregation Church of Claridon - Church Restoration
(*State Historic Preservation Office - Preservation Merit, 2024)*



Gwendolyn speaking at the 2025 AIA Cleveland Design Awards in her role as a committee member



Greater Cleveland Food Bank Volunteering with Perspectus, 2019



AIA National Conference,
Chicago, IL, 2022



AIA National Conference
Washington, D.C., 2024



Perspectus CANstruction Team, 2022



Healthcare Facilities Symposium & Expo: Symposium Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program recipient, 2024



Mini Golfing with a few fellow Perspectus Team Members, 2023



Pepper Pike Club Construction Tour with fellow Perspectus Team Members, 2022

ozanne

June 15, 2026

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

RE: AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Nomination
Gwendolyn Frank

Dear AIA Ohio Honor Awards Jury:

I am pleased to offer my full support and recommendation of Gwendolyn Frank for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award in the Service and Leadership in Practice categories.

I have had the privilege of working with Gwendolyn through the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) ACE Program, which pairs students with professionals in the fields of Architecture, Engineering, and Construction. Ozanne Construction and Perspectus serve as Co-Leads for the ACE Program at Max Hayes High School.

Gwendolyn has been an active team mentor since 2022, and her impact on both the students and fellow mentors has been significant and lasting. Each year, students are presented with a Request for Proposal (RFP) that serves as the foundation for their annual project and presentation. The process begins with preconstruction activities that require architectural guidance and client interaction areas in which Gwendolyn consistently excels.

Through her leadership, students gain firsthand experience in the architect-client relationship and participate in engaging, hands-on design activities. The project then progresses through construction documents, scheduling, estimating, and ultimately culminates in an eight-minute presentation before a panel of industry judges.

The final presentation includes both PowerPoint presentations and presentation boards. Gwendolyn's attention to detail, dedication, creativity, and technical expertise are invaluable during this stage. She works tirelessly with students to refine drawings, select products, organize planning details, and develop an effective presentation strategy. Her ability to guide students while empowering them to succeed is truly exceptional.

From a service and leadership perspective, Gwendolyn is my go-to architect within the ACE Max Hayes Program. She consistently demonstrates professionalism, mentorship, and a commitment to developing the next generation of industry leaders. Her contributions have elevated the program and enriched the educational experience of countless students.

I strongly believe Gwendolyn Frank is highly deserving of the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award in both the Service and Leadership in Practice categories. Her dedication, leadership, and impact make her an outstanding candidate for these honors.

Sincerely,
Ozanne Construction Company, Inc.

Fred Rodgers
Vice President

UBIQUITOUS DESIGN, LIMITED
ARCHITECTURE · PLANNING · HISTORIC PRESERVATION
INTERIORS · GRAPHICS

1 July 2026

Ms. Kate Brunswick CAE, Hon. AIA, Executive Director
AIA OHIO
400 West Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120
Worthington, OH 43085

Subject: AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award Nomination
Gwendolyn Frank

It is my pleasure to offer my recommendation of Ms. Gwendolyn Frank for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award.

Although I have known Gwendolyn for approximately four years through my involvement with AIA Ohio and AIA Cleveland, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand her extraordinary dedication to both the architectural profession and the people who comprise it. As a member of the AIA Cleveland Board of Directors beginning in 2019, I quickly became aware of Gwendolyn's unwavering passion for architecture and, more importantly, her sincere commitment to translating that passion into meaningful service for others within our profession.

When I assumed the role of President of AIA Cleveland in 2024, I specifically sought Gwendolyn's involvement as Secretary of the Board. She graciously accepted my request and immediately distinguished herself as an exceptional officer and an indispensable member of our leadership team. Her professionalism, organizational skills, thoughtful communication, reliability, and infectious enthusiasm for all things AIA were—and continue to be—truly remarkable.

As the owner of an architectural practice, I can readily appreciate the tremendous value Gwendolyn brings to the Perspectus architectural firm. Every successful firm depends upon talented, passionate emerging leaders who elevate both design excellence and organizational culture. Gwendolyn embodies those qualities. Equally impressive, however, is her steadfast commitment to advancing the architectural profession beyond her own practice. Her willingness to dedicate countless hours to strengthening our local, regional, and state AIA communities speaks volumes about her character, leadership, and vision for the future of architecture.

Reflecting upon my own career, I look upon Gwendolyn with genuine admiration. I can only wish that I had demonstrated the same level of passion, commitment, and professional engagement so early in my own career. Her enthusiasm is contagious, her leadership is authentic, and her future is exceptionally bright. More importantly, the future of our profession is brighter because of individuals like Gwendolyn.

Through conversations with her colleagues at Perspectus, I have also come to appreciate her outstanding contributions within her firm. She is recognized not only for her architectural design abilities, but also for fostering collaborative design teams,

strengthening interdisciplinary coordination, mentoring emerging professionals, and consistently delivering exceptional value to clients and the broader community. To have achieved this level of professional respect and leadership at this stage of her career is a testament to both her talent and her extraordinary work ethic.

Perhaps most admirable is her dedication to mentoring recent graduates as they begin their architectural careers. She willingly invests her time, knowledge, and encouragement to help young professionals develop confidence, competence, and a lasting appreciation for our cherished profession. This commitment to uplifting others is one of the defining characteristics of her leadership.

I also had the pleasure of working closely with Gwendolyn on several initiatives I developed during my presidency of AIA Cleveland. She played a major role in the success of several programs, including Dream Architecture, an outreach program designed to inspire students within the Shaker Heights City School District to explore careers in architecture, and our Inaugural Presidential Lecture Series, which brought nationally recognized design professionals from Detroit and New York to engage Cleveland's architectural community in meaningful discussions about contemporary design and practice. Gwendolyn's dedication, leadership, and tireless efforts were instrumental to the success of these initiatives. Without her direct involvement, they simply would not have achieved the impact they did.

As I complete several significant projects within my own practice, it is my sincere intention to become even more actively engaged with AIA Cleveland once again—not only as a member and sponsor, but also as a collaborative partner working alongside Gwendolyn to advance meaningful initiatives that strengthen our profession and inspire the next generation of architects.

Without reservation or hesitation, I offer my highest recommendation of Ms. Gwendolyn Frank for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. She represents the very best of our profession through her leadership, service, integrity, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to advancing architecture. I am confident she will continue to make significant contributions to AIA, the architectural profession, and the communities we serve for many years to come.

With regard,



W. Daniel Bickerstaff, II AIA, NOMA, NCARB
Ubiquitous Design LTD
Founder and Principal Architect

ikm Architecture

1001 Huron Road East, Suite 102
Cleveland, OH 44115

June 19, 2026

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

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Gwendolyn Frank in support of her application for the 2026 AIA Ohio Emerging Professional Award. I had the privilege of serving alongside Gwendolyn on the AIA Cleveland Board for two years, during which time she has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, professionalism, and leadership.

As Board Secretary, Gwendolyn brought a remarkable level of organization and diligence to her role. She ensured that our board proceedings ran smoothly, often going above and beyond to prepare materials and facilitate communication. Her attention to detail and proactive approach were instrumental in maintaining the integrity and efficiency of our operations.

Beyond her secretarial duties, Gwendolyn took initiative in supervising our social media consultant and overseeing the timely distribution of our weekly newsletter—efforts that significantly enhanced our outreach and engagement with the architectural community. Her commitment to excellence is also reflected in her current service on the AIA Ohio Board as a Licensing Advisor. Gwendolyn also serves as an adjunct professor at Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design. This further establishes her dedication to mentoring the next generation of architects.

In 2023, Gwendolyn was rightfully recognized with the AIA Cleveland Emerging Professional Award, a testament to her impact and promise within the field. Her passion for architecture, combined with her thoughtful mentorship and collaborative spirit, makes her an ideal candidate for this award at the state level.

I wholeheartedly recommend Gwendolyn for this award.

Very Truly Yours,

Jonathan M. Lusin AIA, LEED AP
Principal – IKM Architecture
2025 AIA Cleveland Board President