



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **AIA New York Welcomes 2024 Leadership, Introduces 2024 Presidential Theme “Belonging and Beyond”**

*Incoming AIANY President Greg Switzer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, asks that social inclusion and collective well-being become focal points in our architectural design processes and outputs.*

**New York City, December 14, 2023** – On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, AIA New York welcomed its 2024 Board of Directors at the annual Board Inaugural. Executive Director **Jesse Lazar**, and 2023 President **Matthew Bremer, AIA, NCARB**, began the evening by celebrating this year’s achievements. Following the passing of the gavel, incoming 2024 President **Greg Switzer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB**, discussed his presidential theme, [Belonging and Beyond](#).

### **2024 PRESIDENTIAL THEME – BELONGING AND BEYOND**

Switzer’s 2024 AIANY presidential theme, “Belonging and Beyond,” centers on a crucial aspect of human well-being that improves physical and social-emotional health and resilience for individuals and communities. “Belonging” refers to a deep connection with social groups, physical places, and individual and collective experiences. This year’s theme calls for us to be intentional about inclusion by listening and workshopping ideas worth advocating for and amplifying. “Belonging” asks for us to focus especially on the areas of affordability, exclusion, displacement, homelessness, climate change, and other patterns preventing people’s sustained connection to physical places and each other.

We are creative professionals well-equipped to uphold standards of excellence and integrity while prioritizing widespread well-being. As the first Black leader to guide this historic chapter in its 167 remarkable years of influence, Switzer is filled with enthusiasm that belonging will be our focus this year. 2024 will be a year of reflection and exploration as we educate ourselves and initiate opportunities for visionary dialogue, solution-seeking, and sharing with clients and the wider public. Workshop forums will deepen members’ internal connections while also enhancing the visibility and impact potential of the Center for Architecture as a vibrant cultural institution in the heart of New York City.



## **CHAPTER RECOGNITION**

The inaugural also served as an opportunity to recognize members and projects of the architecture and design community for their contributions. AIANY's Vice Presidents recognized the Chapter's program committees with Vice Presidential Citations for contributions in each of the organization's mission areas: design excellence, public outreach, and professional development.

### **AIANY Vice Presidential Citations**

AIANY Citation for Design Excellence: AIA New York recognizes Peter Bafitis, AIA, for leading the AIA New York Housing Committee for nine years and committing to over a decade of activism on housing advocacy efforts in New York City through the Chapter.

AIANY Citation for Professional Development: AIA New York recognizes the Building Science Committee (BSC) for reinvigorating regular programming and discourse at AIA New York around building performance and climate impact of the built environment, as seen through the lens of materials and systems.

AIANY Citation for Public Outreach: AIA New York recognizes the Architecture for Justice Committee for the resounding success of the program Reimagining Justice: A Conversation with Formerly Incarcerated Artists.

## **AIA NEW YORK 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*\*signifies new members and roles*

### **President**

\*Gregory Switzer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB  
SWITZER Architecture, P.C.

### **First Vice President/President-Elect**

\*Benjamin Gilmartin, AIA  
Diller Scofidio + Renfro

### **Vice President for Design Excellence**

Hana Kassem, AIA, LEED AP  
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates

### **Vice President for Professional Development**

\*Peter Miller, AIA  
Palette Architecture

### **Vice President for Public Outreach**

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NCARB  
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\*Tami Hausman  
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**Immediate Past President**

\*Matthew Bremer, AIA, NCARB  
Architecture in Formation

**About Gregory Switzer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB**

Gregory Switzer, AIA, NOMA, NCARB, founded SWITZER Architecture, P.C., as a uniquely positioned architectural practice with emphasis on design and the management of the design process in 2003 as a response to the ever-changing architecture and interiors marketplace, to provide design conscious projects with the highest level of attention to detail and cost. He is responsible for day-to-day firm-wide operations as Managing Principal and CEO. Switzer's extensive and unparalleled experience in multiple project situations allows him to work with



clients and project teams to establish and maintain overall project direction with clarity and focused direction.

Firm projects encompass the perfect balance between creative thought and the leveraged use of technology with a true sensitivity and appreciation of process and their effects on the built environment. Committed to guiding clients through the often-tedious tasks of organization and understanding the impact of the built environment with respect to their unique projects. He believes every client's unique needs are always addressed during the firm's true hands on process of implementation.

Switzer has extended experience with several notable architectural and design firms totaling more than 30 years of hands-on practical knowledge. He maintains memberships in organizations such as NYCOBA/ NOMA, where he served a two-year term as President (2021-2022), National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, The American Institute of Architects New York Chapter, and the Borough of Glen Ridge Historic Preservation Board. He previously served as a member of Queens Community Board# 2 for more than 7 years with a stint as Vice-Chairperson and was active member of the Land Use Committee.

He received a Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and a Bachelor of Interior Design from Louisiana State University. He was also a research fellow at Cornell University and has authored several sections of various books and publications which include the *Interior Design Handbook of Professional Practice*.

### **About AIA New York**

Founded in 1857, AIA New York is the oldest and largest chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The Chapter's members include 5,500 practicing architects, allied professionals, students, and public members interested in architecture and design. AIA New York is dedicated to three goals: design excellence, public outreach, and professional development. [aiany.org](http://aiany.org)