

**AIA KY Annual Meeting Report
Young Architect Representative
October 2025**

- **Young Architect Forum (YAF) Open Mic Night #1** – The Community Focus Group of the YAF hosted an Open Mic session on Thursday, April 17, titled “*Finding your Worth, Finding Your Path.*” The event featured an open dialogue between young architects and three panelists at various stages of their careers. The panelists shared insights, personal experiences, and strategies for recognizing one's value, advocating effectively and transforming obstacles into opportunities.
- **Architecture Week 2025 (April 14-18)** – Architecture week 2025 was a resounding success! I had the opportunity to present to four elementary schools in Lexington -
 - Harrison Elementary
 - Maxwell Elementary
 - William Wells Brown Elementary
 - George Washington Carver STEM Academy for Boys

A total of 122 students were impacted through this initiative. Approximately 90% of the students identified as members of historically underrepresented populations – an important focus of the AIA Architecture Week 2025 Component Grant which was awarded to support outreach to such groups.

My presentation introduced 4th and 5th grade students to the fundamentals of architecture: what it means to be an architect and the educational and professional pathway to becoming one.

Following the presentation, students engaged in a hands-on activity assembling a laser-cut architectural model kit of “My Old Kentucky Home.” The kit was designed by our design charrette winner, Allie Schawe, and was fabricated by NOMI Design. Using a step-by-step instruction booklet, students assembled the model – an experience that demonstrated the journey from design to construction.

It was truly inspiring to watch the students collaborate, problem-solve, and embrace the creative process. Their enthusiasm and curiosity about the profession were evident.

Special thanks to Arein Natour, AIA KY Associate Director, for her invaluable support facilitating the design charrette competition, overseeing the model kit fabrication and packaging, and assisting with the presentation at Harrison Elementary School.

We hope this initiative encourages more emerging professionals to participate in Architecture Week 2026.

- **NCARB Architect Licensing Advisors Summit 2025**

I had the opportunity to attend NCARB's ALS Summit in Minneapolis, MN from July 24-26, as the newly appointed KY Architect Licensing Advisor. Various sessions on AXP and AREs were discussed. NCARB will be rolling out updated AXP guidelines 11/18.

- **Young Architect Forum (YAF) Open Mic Night #2** – The Community Focus Group of the YAF hosted the 2nd Open Mic session on Thursday, August 21, titled “*The Digital Shift.*” The event featured an open dialogue between young architects and four panelists, discussing their use of trending technologies in the era of Artificial Intelligence.
- **K.A.M.P Initiative for KY** – This initiative has been temporarily postponed until Summer 2026. Given the extensive planning and logistical requirements, the Associate Directors and I have decided to defer further discussions until after Architecture Week 2025.
- **Young Architect Representative Transition** – My two-year term will be concluding at the end of this year. AIA KY issued a call for applications between the June and July timeframe. The selection committee of the board met on Friday, 8/1/25, and unanimously selected Jessica Farmer as my successor for the 2026-2028 term.

Respectfully,

George Donkor, AIA