



August 10, 2026

Alexander C. Helms | AIA, NCARB, IMA
Apex Insights | Owner
704.989.2797
achelms11@gmail.com

Re: Alexander Helms' Candidate Declaration for 2027 AIA Virginia President-Elect Position

Dear Paul Battaglia | AIA, Executive Vice President,

It is my pleasure and honor to declare my candidacy for the 2027 AIA Virginia President-Elect position.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

After working in the industry for over 10 years, I realized that great architects don't always make great financial managers, and great financial managers don't always understand good architecture. I decided to dive deeper into the business operations and financial management of the architecture industry in order to empower businesses to rethink how architecture can be a profitable industry, and allow architects to spend more time doing what they actually love: design.

As President-Elect, I would use my expertise as a fiscally minded architect combined with my experience as an analytical problem solver and business manager allows me to be a better steward of the state's resources to support our members' passions, programs, and firms. I am passionate about empowering others to pursue their interests and providing them with the tools and resources needed for their success. I strive to support my design community by advocating for good business management practices that help keep our local firms financially healthy and able to continue thriving for years to come. As President-Elect, I will work to support members, firms, and other leaders at AIA Virginia to achieve success both in their firms' day-to-day operations, as well as the AIA programs our members are most passionate about. I am interested in bolstering existing initiatives such as Art of Practice and the Leaders in Architecture and Business Program, continuing to reviewing the chapters' financial strategies and future budgets, and looking for additional opportunities to grow our chapters' presence.

LABOR DECLARATION

Apex Insights does not employ unpaid labor on projects.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

- Headshot (email)
- Resume
- Three (3) letters of support from the following AIA Virginia members:
 - Rebecca Edmunds | AIA, MFA
 - Lisette Stone | AIA, AIA Blue Ridge President
 - Amber Hall | AIA, AIA Virginia Treasurer

Thank you for your consideration,



Alexander Helms

Alexander C. Helms | AIA, NCARB, IMA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apex Insights | Roanoke, VA 2026 - Present
Owner / Founder

Apex Insights, the Architect's CFO - a southwest Virginia based financial and management strategy consulting firm - provides client-tailored and data-driven management and accounting insights for architects to make better decisions that meet their unique financial goals and current challenges.

CIRCLE Design Studio | Roanoke, VA 2024 - 2026
Business Manager / Project Architect

- Led monthly financial review of profit and loss statements, budget vs actual reports, and financial analysis for the firm owners to meet future goals.
- Assisted in training staff in office procedures and BIM software.
- Managed production staff and reviewed construction documents for quality control.
- Monitored staff productivity, verified time records for payroll, and provided accurate cost of services sold for financial reports.
- Created a CSI based cost estimation system for project budgeting, and developed pricing models for furnishings and cabinetry.
- Developed standard operating procedures including onboarding and training of new hires, timekeeping policies, and an office standard Construction Document checklist.

RRMM Architects | Roanoke, VA 2019 - 2023
Project Architect

- Designed the interior renovation of an existing PEMB for a new welding lab, fabrication lab, and staff offices for Patrick and Henry Community College.
- Supporting Architect on multiple new public-school facilities in Virginia, including Rustburg Middle School and Preston Park.
- Member of the Revit Standards Committee; assisted in the development of graphic standards and Revit templates.

Interactive Design Group | Roanoke, VA 2018 - 2019
Project Architect

- Designed adaptive reuse renovations in the Roanoke Valley.
- Developed as-built Revit models existing buildings.
- Coordinated with consultants through Revit clash detection.
- Managed team members to complete construction documents.

SFCS Architects | Charlotte, NC 2015 - 2018
Project Architect / Project Designer

- Developed time saving Revit Management systems that increased coordination between team members and consultants.
- Coordinated with design-build engineers utilizing BIM 360 tools.
- Managed record drawing sets and reviewed construction drawings.
- Participated in construction punch lists and OAC meetings.

Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill | Chicago, IL 2013
Architectural Intern

Assisted in early core and shell forms through Rhino modeling, Grasshopper computational scripting, CNC fabrication and 3D printing technologies for international high-rise projects.

CONTACT

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LICENSES

NC: 2017.12
VA: 2029.07

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
(2010 - 2015)
Bachelor of Architecture
Minor in Business Leadership

University of Virginia
Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
(2022 - 2025)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AIA Blue Ridge
Board of Directors (2019 - Present)
Treasurer (2022 - Present)

AIA Virginia
Audit Committee (2025 - Present)
Finance Committee (2025 - Present)

Leaders in Architecture and Business
Class of 2025 (Inaugural class)

Emerging Leaders in Architecture
Class of 2014

Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)
Pursuing the Financial and Managerial Accounting Associate (FMAA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA) certifications, estimated completion dates of 2026 and 2027 respectively.