



**STATE BOARD FOR INTERIOR DESIGN
OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS**

1411 Broadway, New York, NY 10018 &
89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234

May 10, 2024
~ 10:30 am ~

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Primary Board Members Present:

- P. Durante (Chair), Certified Interior Designer
- R. Alweis, P.E.
- E. Fisher, Ph.D., Certified Interior Designer
- R. Novak, Certified Interior Designer.
- S. Subance Ferrier, Certified Interior Designer

Extended Board Members Present:

- None

Board Members Absent:

- D. Mallin (Vice Chair), R.A.
- R. Betz, R.A.
- H. Galutera, Certified Interior Designer

Guests:

- E. Lu – IIDA NY Advocacy Committee and co-founder of the Alliance of Design and Construction Professionals (ADCP)
- M. Lomanto – President, ASID New York Metro Chapter
- T. Buchan – Lobbyist, Park Strategies
- M. Jacobson – Committee Chair, ASID New York Metro Chapter
- S. Levine – Past President and Member, IIDA
- S. Tully – Member, ASID

Department Personnel:

- E. Greppo, P.E. – Executive Secretary (ES)
- K Fitzgerald – Associate in Professional Education (*remote in Albany, NY*)
- R. deOlde – Supervisor Professional Education Programs (*remote in Albany, NY*)
- M. Borden – Education Credentials Specialist 3 (*remote in Albany, NY*)

1. Call to Order – Open Session

ES Greppo called the Open Session to order at 10:35 A.M.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Board members, Board Office personnel, and guests provided brief introductions. The ES provided a summary of education and professional background information for new Board Member Suzette Subance Ferrier, Certified Interior Designer. Member Subance Ferrier expanded on the summary.

3. Meeting Minutes

The Open Session meeting minutes from February 9, 2024, were reviewed.

Motion – Durante/Fisher: Approve February 9, 2024, open and executive session meeting minutes, both with two (2) minor amendments.

PASSED, with one (1) abstention.

4. Board Office Report

- There was a recent Board Member resignation, which led to the opening now filled by Member Subance Ferrier. The Public Board Member is the only current vacancy on the Board and the Board Office is seeking nominations of people who meet the statutory criteria.
- As of January 1, 2024, there were 341 registered certified interior designer licensees. NYSED has licensed one (1) certified interior designer to to-date in 2024.
- The 2024 CIDQ Annual Meeting will be held November 7th to November 9th in Chicago, IL. CIDQ will provide funding for the ES and one (1) Board Member to attend. Attendance will depend on internal approvals.
- CIDQ reaches out annually to New York State post-secondary institutions to provide presentations on their certificate processes. The ES joined this outreach effort by speaking about the NYS Interior Design licensure process with students from New York Institute of Technology on February 13, 2024, and Rochester Institute of Technology on March 4, 2024.
- The Board Office will be engaging NYS resident CIDQ certificate holders on licensure via email.
- The NY11+ Annual Student Exhibition Closing Reception was held on April 25, 2024. The exhibit theme was “Paths to Professionalism.” Member Fisher was the moderator and Member Galutera was an event organizer. In a panelist role, ES discussed the licensure and pathways options. There were over 70 student and industry attendees, along with eight (8) schools represented.

5. STEAM Day Outreach Feedback

NYSED intends to again participate in STEAM Day with social media outreach in Fall 2024. The target audience is high school and college students. Board Member comments and suggestions will be requested and consolidated for this year’s outreach.

6. NYSED Presentations – Division of Professional Education

R. DeOlde provided an overview of the Professional Education Program Review (PEPR) Bureau, where staff review and register new and existing professional education programs. M. Borden provided an overview of the Comparative Education (Comp Ed) Bureau, where staff review applicant education from programs not registered by NYS or not accredited by an applicable organization (e.g., CIDA). A Q&A session was held thereafter. ES will work with Comp Ed to review applications where education submissions do not meet the minimum regulatory requirements. They will also review and the details of such deficiencies.

7. Certified Interior Designer (CID) Title

Feedback from Board Members' was solicited on the various regulated titles used within jurisdictions in the context of New York's regulated title, "Certified Interior Designer." Commonly used titles nationwide include Registered Interior Designer, Licensed Interior Designer, Professional Interior Designer and Certified Interior Designer were reviewed. ES will inquire internally to determine if there are any limitations on title terminology for Title Act professions.

Of CIDQ member boards, 21 jurisdictions with a regulated title use a version of either "Registered Interior Designer" or "Licensed Interior Designer" (with the exception of Utah, which utilizes "Commercial Interior Designer"). Jurisdictions that utilize the "Certified Interior Designer" title include California, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Quebec, and Virginia. The Board generally noted that "Registered Interior Designer" was the most common and consistent term within regulated jurisdictions, which is also the title most recently used by newly regulated jurisdictions. The current New York State title, Certified Interior Designer, is very similar to the privately offered certification of "Certified Interior Decorator." There was a general Board sentiment that the similarity and lack of distinction between Certified Interior Designer and Certified Interior Decorator may confuse and mislead the public. Other regulated titles may reduce this confusion and lead to an increase the value of the title to both the public and the licensee.

8. Interior Design Certification – Bill A.9500 (McDonald) / S.9064 (Hoylman-Sigal)

This bill relates to the educational and examination requirements for certification as a certified interior designer and provides an exemption from the certified interior designer education requirements for New York State licensed architects. The bill was introduced since the last Board meeting and was foreshadowed by the associations during their briefing presentations at that meeting. SED has requested technical review comments from the Board.

Currently, New York is reputedly one of two (2) states that are not aligned with NCIDQ standards for education and experience. The ES asked if there was any concern on reducing the minimum experience required for licensure, as the bill effectively proposes. Member Novak noted that the exam process often takes a year for an applicant to complete, and therefore the practical effect on the experience requirement may not necessarily be diminished. There were no other Board concerns noted on that matter beyond statements reinforcing that the NCIDQ experience standard appeared adequate (60 semester hours of post-secondary interior design coursework) and is utilized by the vast majority of regulated jurisdictions.

The Board reviewed the current NCIDQ educational standards and found them robust. It was noted that it is unlikely that a candidate would earn at least 60 semester hours in interior design (as required by the NCIDQ standard) through a certificate program. Most candidates would utilize a combination of associates, bachelors and/or master degree program credentials to achieve the minimum standard. Based on a conversation with the ES and CIDQ, about 10-12 applicants a year apply to the NCIDQ Alternative Review Program (ARP) as an alternate to their standard educational pathway. The ES will perform additional review to understand how candidates are vetted under the ARP. Also, it was noted that if the bill is adopted NYSED should clearly communicate the educational requirement changes to NYS higher education institutions.

Other comments made during the discussion include:

- The current NYS licensure pathway requires experience beyond that which is required for the NCIDQ exams. This may create a loss of pipeline licensee candidates for a number of reasons. The proposed legislation may result in more qualified individuals seeking NYS licensure.
- This legislation may remove barriers for those otherwise qualified and competent for licensure.
- Licensure is an important credential at the beginning of an interior designer's career.
- Two (2) NCIDQ-specific questions were posed which the ES will follow up on:
 - Is international work applicable?
 - How does NCIDQ review education and experience credentials?
- What NY local law requires for inclusivity and ethical responsibility is more stringent than what is represented on the NCIDQ exam(s), although it was noted that the testing is on a national (not state) level. Local knowledge is not required for Interior Design at this time.
- Testing, including matters of fire-safety and codes is national, not state specific. This bill would not alter that model.
- The proposed Architect education exemption, while exempt those individuals from NYS educational requirements, does not exempt from the NCIDQ exam qualification requirements (which include an educational component).
- Some New York State public project requests for proposals (RFPs) require CID licensure.

9. Adjournment

Motion – Durante/Novak: Move adjourn at 12:39 P.M.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,



Eric Greppo, PE
Executive Secretary