

Minutes of the Meeting
State Board for Architecture
1411 Broadway; Regents' Room
New York, NY 10018

Present: Nicole Dosso, Chair
Carol Bentel, Vice Chair
Greg Canaras (10:13)
Fred Mosher, Jr.
Anik Pearson
Joel Peterson
Talisha Sainvil
Marcy Stanley

Absent: Giuseppe Lauro

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in Professional Education

Guests: Michael Armstrong, NCARB
Joshua Batkin, NCARB
Edward Marley, NCARB
Roxanne Alston, NCARB
Sabrina Akbarally (10:35)

August 6, 2025

OPEN SESSION

1. **Motion:** *Mosher/Pearson:* That the Board enter Executive Session.
2. The Board resumed Open Session.
3. **Introductions, Welcome Guests, Board Departure**
NCARB representatives joined the meeting. Members of the State Board, staff, and NCARB representatives introduced themselves. The Executive Secretary read a letter recognizing Marcy Stanley for her 10 years of service as the Public Member on the Board.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
Motion: *Bentel/Sainvil:* That the minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting of the State Board for Architecture be approved.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. **New Business:**
NCARB Visit:
NCARB leadership discussed their various roles within the organization and their appreciation for this engagement with the State Board. Introductory topics included the accessibility of licensure, reimagining the pathways to practice, assessment of competencies required for practice, the transformation of the customer relations team to reflect the Pathways to Practice initiative, and NCARB's advocacy capability for those jurisdictions that need or request assistance.
 - **Pathways to Practice:**
Mr. Armstrong described how NCARB is examining the current licensure framework and is shifting from the three E's (experience, education and exam) to a competency-

based model. They have examined current assessment tools to see how they can measure the 16 competencies. The goal is to measure the 16 competencies through validated assessments, with existing tools to be modified or eliminated and new tools to be developed.

NCARB has taken steps to modify existing programs to better encompass the competencies. For example, the Architectural Experience Program (AXP) reporting requirement has been made more flexible, and the ESL Accommodations have led to increased passing rates on the exam. The Pathways initiative is still in the conceptual stage with several assessment tools being discussed. NCARB does expect to have some beta models ready for testing by June 2026, with the current goal to launch a minimally viable product in 2028 and to have the support of 2/3rds of the jurisdictions at the time of launch. NCARB has communicated its initiative with the AIA and the academic community, with some schools being more focused on the preparation and licensure of future architects than others. This initiative is not seeking to replace accreditation, and NCARB is talking with the NAAB about the initiative.

NCARB asked Board members for questions and feedback on this initiative. The Executive Secretary requested confirmation that this would not lead to a two-tier system of education based upon one college emphasizing licensure over other schools. NCARB confirmed that is not the case. Members of the Board felt that the biggest challenge in this early stage is not knowing how NCARB will be measuring competencies and through what assessments those competencies will be judged. NCARB plans to engage Member Boards throughout this process and have several touchpoints with the Boards. It was noted that this initiative is quite possibly the biggest change to ever happen in the architecture licensure process. Member Bentel noted the value of internships taken while students are enrolled in college and Mr. Armstrong noted that paid internships that meet AXP requirements usually qualify towards the experience requirements.

■ **IPAL (Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure):**

NCARB leadership discussed the IPAL program that seeks to reduce the time to licensure through the pursuit of the 3 E's concurrently. Students in the 30 schools with IPAL programs are averaging 2 years to licensure after graduation. NCARB has made IPAL more flexible by requiring students to take the 6 ARE practice exams and not the actual ARE divisions, while in school, broadening the range of academic programs that are eligible to participate, requiring students to complete 75% of the AXP and not 100% prior to graduation, and allowing students to maintain their eligibility to test post-graduation. NCARB is looking to address IPAL challenges such as job placement and realistic workload while enrolled in an IPAL program. NCARB noted that they will validate the assessments for those students in educational programs in architecture, and that there could be a situation where one school checks more of the competency boxes than another, even for NAAB-accredited programs.

■ **NAAB Updates / Future of Outreach**

NCARB leadership discussed the change in the financing structure for the NAAB. Historically, the NAAB has been financed primarily by NCARB, AIA and ASCA, with a small contribution from the AIAS. NCARB, AIA, and ASCA were unable to reach agreement with the NAAB on an increased contribution amount, so the schools themselves have been paying the NAAB. NCARB still engages with the NAAB on committees, site visits, and via its Board, but does not anticipate going back to the old

funding structure. NCARB leadership notes that their main function is to support licensure candidates.

Member Pearson discussed the recently held Licensing Advisors' Summit that she attended. She noted the increased importance of Licensing Advisors at NAAB-accredited programs and students in disseminating licensure information. She noted that given an instructor's limited availability for office visits, student advocates are often the most effective method to spread awareness and to communicate with peers on licensure topics. Mr. Armstrong mentioned that NCARB has been doing student outreach for 18 years and that the future of outreach is being revisited by NCARB Programs. He noted that there was not a cohesive movement around discussing the topic of licensure at a K12 level, and that continued AIA assistance in making K12 programs aware of architecture as a profession is needed. Ms. Akbarally, the student guest, discussed the value of attending the Licensure Advisors' Summit and the importance of gaining knowledge about the benefits of NCARB programs.

New York's Updates to Education/Experience:

The Executive Secretary reviewed New York's recent changes to experience and education requirements. He noted that the experience requirements had not changed in many decades and the goal was to modernize and make them more flexible. These changes are already positively affecting candidates, especially the 50/50 split allowed in Categories I and J, except for the "all-experience" pathway. The Executive Secretary noted that the summary of the change is available on the Department's website.

NCARB leadership noted that they would like to continue the conversation around certain degrees leading to licensure in New York. It is possible that a common approach to curriculum development can be created that includes NCARB setting the standards and guidance on qualifying a program to meet specific competencies.

Illegal Practice Awareness:

Chair Dosso discussed the misuse of the title "Architect" and asked NCARB how they could help to educate individuals regarding title and practice laws. NCARB leadership noted this may be an opportunity for Licensing Advisors to help educate students and those who have recently graduated and will give this concept some additional thought.

FIVERR:

The Executive Secretary shared the FIVERR web site and brought up the numerous issues to be found on this site. NCARB leadership shared that there are early discussions with how to resolve the issues presented. The discussion has been sent to ICOR along with other fraudulent seal issues. Mr. Armstrong noted that a survey will be sent out to the Member Boards from ICOR seeking to find out the common themes on the issues.

6. Board Chair Report:

Chair Dosso requested that Board members share the organizations, boards, and committees on which they currently serve. She will send out a request to fellow members.

7. Board Office Report:

The Executive Secretary delivered the Board Office Report, which included updated statistics, recent activities, and proposed legislation. He noted that the bill to modernize continuing education (CE) requirements for landscape architects had passed both the Senate and Assembly

but has not yet been sent to the Executive. The Executive Secretary noted that the language mirrors recent CE changes for architects, except for an exemption for first-time licensees.

8. **Old Business:**

2025 NCARB Annual Business Meeting:

The attendees shared their experiences at the Annual Business Meeting, with the Executive Secretary highlighting workshops that he found valuable. He also shared the election results for the NCARB Board of Directors. He will share NCARB's responses to the Town Hall discussions that was recently received.

Project Construction Cost Estimates - NYC:

The Executive Secretary noted that Member Pearson, Chair Dosso, and himself will attend a meeting with AIA NY staff and stakeholders next week.

Women in Architecture Series:

Member Pearson shared her experience with the Women in Architecture series, now in its sixth season, and she noted an upcoming session at Workshop/APD. Member Peterson noted he will make the connection with leaders from his firm to become involved in this series.

FIVERR:

This topic was discussed with NCARB representatives earlier in the meeting. The Executive Secretary noted that the issue has been sent to Department attorneys to review possible next steps.

9. **New Business:**

2026 NCARB Regional Summit:

The Executive Secretary noted the meeting will take place on March 20 and 21, 2026 and asked for any volunteers who would like to attend. Should travel approval be granted by New York State, Member Peterson noted that he can attend.

Future Meeting dates:

Dates for the 2026 Board meetings were agreed to as follows: February 5, May 20, August 5, and November 4.

NCARB Discussion Continued:

Architecture as STEM:

NCARB leadership agreed that the profession of architecture should be considered a STEM field and suggested that the AIA should be involved in the effort to have it so designated. NCARB leadership is meeting with senior-level staff with the AIA and will follow up with the Executive Secretary to discuss possible next steps.

Outreach:

Member Peterson noted that there were initiatives he was working on with NCARB staff prior to the changes in outreach. NCARB leadership noted this and will have someone connect with him. He also suggested that there could be value in meeting more often for the Licensing Advisors' Summit, with NCARB hosting gatherings via Zoom for shorter durations. NCARB leadership will bring this concept back to staff for further conversations.

Motion: *Stanley /Mosher:* Moved to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be November 13, 2025, in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

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Education

August 6, 2025

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Education Review:**
The Board reviewed the *Master of Science in Space Architecture* program from the University at Houston. After review of the courses in the program, the Board recommended that it count towards Education Category E and be worth 1 additional unit of education award.
2. **Endorsement Experience Review:**
An application for licensure by endorsement for a candidate in Connecticut was reviewed. The Board evaluated the candidate's experience and projects and recommended that licensure be granted.
3. **Practical Exam:**
The Executive Secretary called for volunteers to conduct a practical exam in November. Members Mosher, Sainvil and Canaras will conduct the exam, with Member Peterson attending to observe the exam.
4. One disciplinary case was reviewed.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
Motion: *Bentel/Sainvil:* That the minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting of the State Board for Architecture be approved.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
6. **Motion:** *Stanley/Bentel:* That the Board resume the Open Session.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary