

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

Present: Carol Bentel
Greg Canaras, Vice Chair
Nicole Dosso, Chair
Nicole Karpf
Giuseppe Lauro
Fred Mosher, Jr.
Anik Pearson
Joel Peterson
Talisha Sainvil (10:09)

Staff: Robert Lopez, Executive Secretary
Gina Sacco, Assistant in Professional
Education
Maryann Fairman, Education Program
Assistant 2
Melissa Heinrichs, Education
Credentials Specialist 1

May 20, 2026

OPEN SESSION

1. **Motion:** *Bentel/Lauro*: That the Board enter Executive Session.
2. The Board resumed Open Session.
3. **Welcome/Introductions:** The Board welcomed new Board member Nikki Karpf, staff members Maryann Fairman and Melissa Heinrichs, with introductions. The Executive Secretary and the Board thanked Member Bentel for her five years of great service to the Board and wished her well.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Motion: *Pearson/Lauro*: That the minutes of the February 5, 2026 meeting of the State Board for Architecture be approved.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. **Board Chair Report**
Chair Dosso shared highlights from a discussion she had with the Syracuse University School of Architecture Advisory Board. She shared how Syracuse students have openly adopted AI in school and how it was being used in practice. Additional members shared how each were using AI in their respective architecture practices and discussed the possible impact of AI on entry-level staff in firms.
6. **Board Office Report**
The Executive Secretary delivered the Board Office Report, which included updated statistics, recent activities, and proposed legislation. The Executive Secretary noted that the new law to modernize continuing education (CE) requirements for landscape architects has an effective date in May of 2027. The regulatory amendment process associated with this new law in landscape architecture, together with the UK endorsement and seal provisions for architecture, has begun, with SED leadership currently reviewing a first draft.

Members had questions about S7104 (NYC DoB false documents) and the former bill regarding licensing consequences for serious abuse of self-certification requirements with the DoB (a bill not introduced this session). The Executive Secretary will include S7104 bill language and the old bills regarding serious abuse of self-certification requirements in the August board package.

7. **Old Business**

March 2026 NCARB Regional Summit Summary

The Executive Secretary shared information about the MBE portion of the Regional Summit, with Member Peterson sharing his thoughts and comments, given that this was his first NCARB meeting as New York's Public Member. Member Peterson attended sessions pertaining to his role as a Public Member and found that the Summit provided an opportunity to gain deeper insights as to how NCARB functions. He met candidates running for the Public Director and At-Large Director, with elections happening in June at the Annual Business Meeting. He also described Region 2's Strategic Planning Session that occurred on Sunday following the Regional Summit and noted that he found the whole event to be worthwhile.

April 2026 NCARB Pre-BoD Meeting Summary

The Executive Secretary included a summary of what was discussed at the meeting. Highlights included NCARB's statement on AI, upcoming resolutions, a proposed volunteer code of conduct and the new MRA with South Africa.

Future Regulatory Amendments

The Executive Secretary described bundling regulatory amendments to include technical corrections to an architect's seal and an endorsement pathway for UK architects with proposed regulatory amendments in landscape architecture. He discussed the details surrounding these amendments. He anticipates that the regulatory amendments will be discussed by the Board of Regents in December with action by the Regents in early 2027.

Project Construction Cost Estimates - NYC

There is no update regarding this issue since the meeting between AIA NY representatives and NYC Department of Buildings' leadership has yet to occur. It is anticipated that the AIA NY will be bringing the questions related to architects certifying cost estimates in their submissions to the DoB to this meeting.

Architecture as STEM

Due to staff changes at AIA National and AIA NYS, this item has not yet progressed.

Women in Architecture Series

Member Pearson updated the Board on the Women in Architecture series and described the background and intent of these events to give new Member Karpf added context. She shared details about the last event which included women from several generations at Urbahn Architects sharing their experiences in architecture.

8. **New Business**

Proposed NCARB Visit

The Executive Secretary asked the Board about the appropriate timing for the next visit from NCARB leadership. Since NCARB had recently been to the Board meeting last August, the Board agreed that the February 2027 meeting would be appropriate. The Executive Secretary will inform NCARB and provide a list of potential topics for their visit, and the Board will discuss the agenda at the next meeting.

NCARB Annual Meeting

Resolutions

The Executive Secretary reviewed the resolutions considering New York's laws and regulations, and the Board recommended that Member Peterson vote as follows:

- 2026-01 – no
- 2026-02 – yes
- 2026-3 – yes

Elections

The Board reviewed the candidates running for office and shared their preferences for Member Peterson to cast votes for at the meeting. Member Lauro described the number of candidate calls he received, and the Executive Secretary noted the volume and said that he'd pass along the information to NCARB at the Annual Meeting.

Voting Delegate

Motion: *Bentel/Pearson:* That Member Peterson will act as the Board's voting delegate at the Annual Meeting.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NCARB MBC/MBE Meeting

If travel is approved, the Executive Secretary and Member Pearson will attend.

2027 NCARB Regional Summit

If travel is approved, the Executive Secretary, Member Peterson and Member Sainvil will attend.

Professional Member Search

Interviews for potential candidates are ongoing, and the Executive Secretary has reached out to several potential candidates and has an interview scheduled for August. All Board members were encouraged to recommend individuals who may be a good fit for the work of the State Board. Member Lauro suggested that the search be conducted with intentionality to meet the needs of the State Board, including Western New York representation.

Motion: *Bentel/Lauro:* Moved to adjourn.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 in NYC.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary

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May 20, 2026

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Disciplinary Cases**
The Board reviewed two recent disciplinary cases. Members suggested additional NYC DoB training may help to reduce the number of audit failures currently being referred to OPD.
2. **Research Review**
The Board reviewed research conducted by a candidate and, after discussion, decided to award 1 year of experience credit towards licensure. The Board also suggested that there be additional guidance provided to assist in evaluating research and agreed that forming an Ad-Hoc committee to review how research is evaluated may be beneficial.
Motion: Dosso/Bentel: That the Board accept the candidate's research experience for 1 year of experience.
PASSED 8-0; ABSTENTION - Pearson.
3. **Practical Exams:**
There will be two practical exams occurring simultaneously in August and a single practical exam scheduled for November. In August, Members Pearson (Chair), Canaras, and Lauro will make up one practical exam panel, and Chair Dosso (Chair), Karpf, and Mosher will administer the second practical exam. November volunteers will be Members Pearson (Chair), Sainvil, and Mosher.
4. **Motion:** *Pearson/Mosher:* That the Board resume the Open Session.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Lopez, RA
Executive Secretary