



# NCARB Bylaws

**National Council of Architectural Registration Boards**

Customer Service: 202-879-0520 | Main: 202-783-6500

[www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org)

© National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

This document was last updated in July 2024.

# NCARB BYLAWS

*(Adopted June 23, 1979, Cambridge, MA. Amended June 27, 1981, Maui, HI; June 26, 1982, Minneapolis, MN; June 25, 1983, Philadelphia, PA; June 30, 1984, Portland, OR; June 29, 1985, San Antonio, TX; June 28, 1986, Atlanta, GA; June 27, 1987, Seattle, WA; June 29, 1988, Chicago, IL; June 28, 1989, Boston, MA; June 30, 1990, Washington, DC; June 29, 1991, Denver, CO; June 27, 1992, San Francisco, CA; June 26, 1993, Kansas City, MO; June 25, 1994, Dearborn, MI; June 24, 1995, New Orleans, LA; June 29, 1996, Baltimore, MD; June 28, 1997, Minneapolis, MN; June 27, 1998, San Diego, CA; June 26, 1999, Charleston, SC; June 17, 2000, Chicago, IL; June 23, 2001, Seattle, WA; June 29, 2002, Boston, MA; June 28, 2003, San Antonio, TX; June 26, 2004, Portland, OR; June 25, 2005, Miami, FL; June 24, 2006, Cincinnati, OH; June 23, 2007, Denver, CO; June 28, 2008, Pittsburgh, PA; June 26, 2010, San Francisco, CA; June 25, 2011, Washington, DC; June 23, 2012, Minneapolis, MN; June 22, 2013, San Diego, CA; June 21, 2014, Philadelphia, PA; June 20, 2015, New Orleans, LA; June 18, 2016, Seattle, WA; June 30, 2018, Detroit, MI; May 14, 2021, Special Vote; June 26, 2021, Los Angeles, CA; June 4, 2022, Austin, TX; June 17, 2023, Tampa, FL; June 15, 2024, Chicago, IL.)*

## ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

## ARTICLE II—DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the following meanings when used in these Bylaws:

- A. “Advisory Committee” shall mean any committee not having and exercising the authority of the Board of Directors;
- B. “At-Large Director” shall mean a Director who meets the qualifications of an At-Large Director and is not an Elected Officer, Regional Director, Member Board Executive Director, or Public Director;
- C. “Board Committee” shall mean a committee which is comprised solely of two or more Directors and shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors, to the extent authorized by the Board of Directors and permitted by law;
- D. “Board of Directors” shall mean the Board of Directors of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards;
- E. “Committee” shall mean a Board Committee or an Advisory Committee;
- F. “Council” shall mean the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards;
- G. “Council Record” shall mean a record of the education, training, examination, practice, and character of an individual member of the architectural profession;

- H. “Delegate” shall mean any member of a Member Board in attendance at an Annual Business Meeting or any special meeting of the Council as a representative of such Member Board;
- I. “Director” shall mean a member of the Board of Directors;
- J. “Elected Officer” shall mean those Elected Officers set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 of these Bylaws;
- K. “Examination” shall mean the Architect Registration Examination® prepared by the Council;
- L. “Executive Director” shall mean a person holding such title at a Member Board or having a comparable position as the primary administrator responsible for overseeing the activities of the Member Board;
- M. “Jurisdiction” shall mean any political subdivision of the United States, including any State, commonwealth, territory, dependency, and the District of Columbia, which has a law regulating the practice of architecture;
- N. “Member Board” is a member of the Council in good standing and shall mean the body legally authorized by a Jurisdiction to certify that an applicant for Registration as an architect is qualified;
- O. “Member Board Executive Director” shall mean the individual serving as the Member Board Executive Director (as that term is described in Article VII of these Bylaws) on the Board of Directors;
- P. “NCARB Volunteer” shall mean an individual serving in a voluntary capacity on an Advisory Committee or other group established and appointed by the Board as outlined in Article XII;
- Q. “Public Director” shall mean the individual serving as the Public Director (as that term is described in Article VII of these Bylaws) on the Board of Directors;
- R. “Public Member” shall mean a member of a Member Board who does not hold or have a license in a discipline regulated by such Member Board or in a related design profession;
- S. “Regional Chair” shall mean the chairperson of a Region, as such term is described in Article VI of these Bylaws;
- T. “Regional Director” shall mean a Director who was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors by a Region;
- U. “Registration” shall mean licensure as an architect by the body legally authorized by a Jurisdiction to grant such licensure;

# NCARB BYLAWS

- V. “Remote Meeting” shall mean any Annual Business Meeting or any Special Meeting held by telephone or video conference technology or other electronic communications technology that allows all participants to hear and participate in the proceedings and to vote, pose questions, and make comments;
- W. “Voting Delegate” shall mean a Delegate who is authorized to vote on behalf of a Member Board, as evidenced by a letter of credentials provided by the applicable Member Board.

## ARTICLE III—PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council shall be to work together as a council of Member Boards to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to assist Member Boards in carrying out their duties. Pursuant thereto, the Council shall develop and recommend standards to be required of an applicant for architectural Registration; develop and recommend standards regulating the practice of architecture; provide a process for certifying to Member Boards the qualifications of an architect for Registration; and represent the interests of Member Boards before public and private agencies, provided that the Council shall not purport to represent the interest of a specific Member Board without that Member Board’s approval.

## ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Members. The membership of the Council shall be the Member Boards. Membership in the Council shall be attained through acceptance by the Board of Directors. Application shall be made upon forms furnished by the Council. Every Member Board shall annually provide the Council with the names and addresses of its members, a copy of its law relating to the Registration and practice of architecture, a copy of its rules or regulations administering such law, and a roster of all persons registered by the Member Board, and shall pay the annual membership dues. All Member Boards shall have equal rights.

SECTION 2. Removal. If, after written notification from the Board of Directors, a Member Board shall:

- A. fail to pay its dues or other financial obligations to the Council or to its Region, or
- B. refuse Registration or otherwise fail to register architects holding the Council Certificate for the reason that such architects are not the residents of the Member Board’s jurisdiction, or
- C. fail to administer the Architect Registration Examination prepared by the Council to all its applicants (other than applicants of whom it does not require a written examination) for Registration,

then the Board of Directors may recommend to the Council that such Member Board be removed from membership in the Council. Following such recommendation, the Council may determine by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all Member Boards to remove such Member Board or, with respect to non-payment of

dues or other financial obligations, waive or modify the Member Board’s obligation to pay such amounts due to the Council.

SECTION 3. Reinstatement. A Jurisdiction that has been removed from membership in the Council for reasons of non-payment of dues or other financial obligations shall be automatically reinstated as a Member Board:

- A. following payment of all financial obligations of membership had the Jurisdiction not been removed (or such lesser amount approved, by a vote of two-thirds of all Member Boards),
- B. upon being in compliance with all other membership requirements of Article IV, Sections 1 and 2; A Member Board that was removed from the Council for reasons other than failure to pay dues or other financial obligations shall only be reinstated upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Member Boards.

## ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Annual Business Meeting. The Council shall hold an Annual Business Meeting at a time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. Notice of all Annual Business Meetings shall be sent to the chair or equivalent presiding officer and to the Member Board Executive of each Member Board not less than 90 days prior to each such meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings. Special business meetings of the Council may be called by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, or by a majority of the Member Boards. The Bylaws provisions which govern notice for, and the procedures and conduct of business of, the Annual Business Meeting shall apply to Special Meetings.

SECTION 3. Remote Meetings. The Annual Business Meeting and any Special Meetings may be held as a Remote Meeting. The Bylaws provisions which govern calling and providing notice for, and the procedures and conduct of business of, the Annual Business Meeting or special meetings, as applicable, shall apply to Remote Meetings. Holding a Remote Meeting does not preclude allowing participants to gather in a designated location during such meeting.

SECTION 4. Delegates and Credentials. Each Member Board shall be entitled to be represented at Annual Business Meetings and special meetings of the Council by one or more official Delegates who shall be members of that Member Board.

Notwithstanding a Member Board’s total number of Delegates, each Member Board shall be represented at each Annual Business Meeting and special meeting of the Council by one Voting Delegate, who shall be entitled to cast the vote of its Member Board and who shall be identified as the Voting Delegate by a letter of credentials from the applicable Member Board. A Member Board may change its Voting Delegate from time to time by issuing a subsequent letter of credentials to the Council. Each Voting Delegate shall have an equal vote on all matters on which all Member Boards are entitled to vote.

# NCARB BYLAWS

SECTION 5. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Business Meeting of the Council shall be Voting Delegates representing a majority of the Member Boards.

SECTION 6. Resolutions and Other Motions. Resolutions are the substantive matters placed on the agenda for a meeting of the Council in accordance with this Section. All resolutions to be considered at any meeting of the Council, except those submitted by the Board of Directors, those submitted by Select Committees and those of the laudatory type, shall be submitted to the Regional Leadership Committee not later than 75 days prior to the day at the Annual Business Meeting at which the resolution is to be considered. The Regional Leadership Committee shall review each resolution submitted by Regions and Member Boards for conformity with the Council Bylaws and may recommend to the author of any resolution such changes as are deemed advisable for the purpose of clarity and to avoid duplication. All resolutions shall, insofar as practicable without altering or confusing the intent of the resolution, avoid invective or argument; but the proponent of a resolution may, when submitting the resolution to the Regional Leadership Committee, include a brief summary of the argument in support of the resolution, which summary shall be published with the publication of the resolution. The Council shall distribute all resolutions, except laudatory resolutions, to the Member Boards not less than 30 days prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered. If the Board of Directors discloses its position to the Council, the vote of the Board of Directors shall be disclosed at the same time.

Only Member Boards, Regions, Select Committees, and the Board of Directors may offer resolutions to be presented at any meeting of the Council, or amendments to resolutions so presented. All other motions permitted under Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised may be made by any Delegate or Director.

SECTION 7. Voting. The affirmative vote of two-thirds of all Member Boards is required to pass any amendment to these Bylaws, to remove any Member Board from membership in the Council, or as provided in Article IV, Section 3. The affirmative vote of a majority of all Member Boards is required to pass any other resolution. Except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws, voting upon all other issues shall require the quantum of vote set forth in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Except as expressly permitted by these Bylaws, there shall be no voting by proxy.

SECTION 8. Order of Business. An agenda outlining the order of business shall be prepared for all Council meetings. The agenda shall be prepared under the direction of the Board of Directors and sent by the Secretary/Treasurer to all Member Boards at least 30 days before the date set for a particular meeting.

SECTION 9. Rules of Order. The Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised when not in conflict with: first, applicable laws, then, the Articles of Incorporation, and lastly the Bylaws of the Council.

SECTION 10. Advisory Votes by Letter or Electronic Ballot. The Board of Directors may from time to time submit any issue or question to the Member Boards for an advisory vote by letter or electronic

ballot, provided the subject matter and the ballot shall have been officially submitted in writing to the Member Boards at least 60 days prior to a date therein set for final receipt of ballots. Only ballots returned in the prescribed time will be counted.

SECTION 11. Other Participants. Council Directors, Delegates, Member Board Executives or Attorneys when designated by their Member Boards, persons designated by the Board of Directors, and persons designated by the presiding officer shall have the privilege of the floor at Council meetings and may take part in the discussions and perform all functions of the Delegates except to vote or to initiate action (unless otherwise permitted by these Bylaws).

SECTION 12. International Agreements. All written international and/or foreign agreements entered into by the Council shall be subject to ratification by majority vote of the members at an Annual Business Meeting.

## ARTICLE VI—REGIONS

SECTION 1. Purpose. In order to foster closer communication between Member Boards and the Council, as well as among Member Boards, and further to foster the development of future leaders and assist the Council in achieving its stated purpose, six geographical Regions comprising, in the aggregate, all the Member Boards are hereby established. Each Member Board shall be required to be a member of its Region.

SECTION 2. Membership. The membership of the Regions is established as follows:

REGION 1—New England Conference: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont.

REGION 2—Middle-Atlantic Conference: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia.

REGION 3—Southern Conference: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands.

REGION 4—Mid-Central Conference: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin.

REGION 5—Central States Conference: Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming.

REGION 6—Western Conference: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington.

## ARTICLE VII—THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Membership. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Elected Officers of the Council, one Regional Director from each Region, two At-Large Directors, one Member Board Executive Director, and one Public Director.

# NCARB BYLAWS

SECTION 2. Qualifications and Limitations. The qualifications for serving as a Director shall be as set forth in this Article VII, Section 2, and no entity responsible for nominating any Director shall impose any qualification not set forth herein.

- A. A candidate for election to any Director position shall, at the time such person is nominated:
  - (i) be a citizen of the United States; and
  - (ii) have served at least two (2) years as a member of a Member Board (and in the case of a candidate for Public Director, this service must have been as a consumer or public member); or, in the case of a candidate for the position of Member Board Executive Director, have served at least two (2) years as an Executive Director; or, in the case of a candidate for an At-Large Director position, have served at least two (2) years as a member of a Member Board or as an NCARB Volunteer.
- B. With respect to candidates for a Regional Director position, all qualifications relating to current or past membership in a Member Board or Region must be within the Region from which the candidate is nominated.
- C. If a Member Board regulates professions in addition to the profession of architecture, the candidate will qualify as a member or former member of a Member Board only if the candidate is or was an architect-member or a public member of the architect section of the Member Board.
- D. A candidate for election as the Secretary/Treasurer shall have served at least two years on the Board of Directors during the five years prior to election as Secretary/Treasurer and, if an architect, hold an active NCARB Certificate at the time of election.
- E. A candidate for election as the Vice President shall have served at least two years on the Board of Directors during the five years prior to election as Vice President and, if an architect, hold an active NCARB Certificate at the time of election.
- F. An individual shall qualify to serve as the President during the one-year period immediately following their term as Vice President and, if an architect, hold an active NCARB Certificate at the time of election or succession to office, as applicable.
- G. An individual shall qualify to serve as the Immediate Past President during the one-year period immediately following their term as President and, if an architect, hold an active NCARB Certificate at the time of succession to office.

SECTION 3. Terms of Office and Election. The term of office of a Director shall be one year (from the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting at which they are elected to serve or succeed to

office until the adjournment of the next Annual Business Meeting and until their successor is duly elected and/or succeeds to office).

No person shall serve more than two terms in succession as a Regional Director or At-Large Director or three terms in succession as a Member Board Executive Director or Public Director; provided, however, that service as an Elected Officer or service filling a mid-term vacancy shall not count against such limits.

No incumbent shall serve for more than one term in any Elected Officer position; provided, however, that an Elected Officer shall be eligible to serve for the full term of office if, during the term immediately prior thereto, such Elected Officer had succeeded to or been elected to such office to fill a vacancy.

SECTION 4. Removal.

- A. A Director may be removed with cause by a majority vote of the Member Boards at a meeting where a quorum is present, with the meeting notice stating that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is the removal of the director.
- B. A Director may be removed with cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. Nomination and Election of Directors.

- A. Directors shall be nominated as set forth below in this Section 5 of this Article VII. Notwithstanding the various methods of nomination set forth below, all Directors must be elected by a majority vote of the Member Boards at a meeting at which a quorum is present; except for (1) the At-Large Directors, who may be elected by a plurality vote, and (2) the President and Immediate Past President, who shall succeed to such roles as a result of qualifying for the applicable position in accordance with Article VII, Sections 2 (F) or (G), except that if the Vice President is serving as the result of a vacancy, then the President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Member Boards at a meeting at which a quorum is present.
- B. Each Region shall select its nominee for Regional Director at a Region meeting. The nominations will be announced by the several Regions prior to and/or at the Annual Business Meeting of the Council.
- C. Any person qualified to serve as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, or, in the event of an election for President resulting from a qualifying vacancy, the President may be nominated by declaring their candidacy at the Annual Business Meeting by the time determined by the Credentials Committee.
- D. The candidate for Member Board Executive Director shall be nominated by majority vote of the Member Board Executive community comprised of the Executive Director of each Member Board. The nomination will

# NCARB BYLAWS

be announced by the community prior to and/or at the Annual Business Meeting of the Council.

- E. Any person qualified to serve as the Public Director may be nominated by declaring their candidacy at the Annual Business Meeting by the time determined by the Credentials Committee.
- F. Any person qualified to serve as an At-Large Director may be nominated by declaring their candidacy at the Annual Business Meeting by the time determined by the Credentials Committee.

## SECTION 6. Vacancies.

- A. Vacancies in the office of any Regional Director or Member Board Executive Director shall be filled by an appointee nominated by the Region or the Member Board Executive community respectively and appointed by the Board of Directors to hold office from the time of such appointment until the adjournment of the next Annual Business Meeting.
- B. Vacancies in the office of the Public Director, the Secretary/Treasurer, or an At-Large Director shall be filled by an appointee designated by the Board of Directors to hold office from the time of such appointment until the adjournment of the next Annual Business Meeting. Any such appointee shall meet all qualifications applicable to the vacant Director position, as determined by the Credentials Committee.
- C. Any such appointee under Sections 6(A) or 6(B) of this Article VII shall meet all qualifications applicable to the vacant Director position, as determined by the Credentials Committee.
- D. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President, who shall serve as President for the remainder of the term and the following term during which they would have succeeded to the office if not for the vacancy, except that if the Vice President is serving as the result of a vacancy, then a new President shall be elected at the next Annual Business Meeting.
- E. A vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Secretary/Treasurer, who shall hold the office of Vice President until the adjournment of the next Annual Business Meeting, at which Annual Business Meeting the Member Boards shall elect both a Vice President and a Secretary/Treasurer.
- F. A vacancy in the office of Immediate Past President shall remain vacant.
- G. Any Regional Director who moves their principal residence to a place outside the Region from which they were nominated shall be deemed to have vacated the office of Regional Director, and any Director who ceases to be eligible as provided in this Article VII, Section 2 shall be deemed to have vacated their directorship.

SECTION 7. Duties. The affairs of the Council shall be managed under the authority and direction of the Board of Directors, who shall act by majority vote of the Directors present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, except as otherwise expressly required by these Bylaws or applicable law. It shall exercise all authority, right, and power granted to it by the laws of the State of Iowa and shall perform all duties required by the said laws and by these Bylaws, and, in accordance therewith, it shall not delegate any of the authority, rights, or power or any of the duties imposed on it by these Bylaws or otherwise, unless such delegation is specifically provided for in these Bylaws. All Directors shall serve without compensation; provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit the Board of Directors from providing reasonable allowances from time to time to the President and to the Vice President. Any such allowances shall be included in budget reports furnished to the Member Boards.

SECTION 8. Meetings of the Board. The Board of Directors may meet in any manner allowed by applicable law in regular or special meetings in order to transact business. Unless finances of the Council will not permit, the Board of Directors shall hold a regular meeting immediately prior to the opening of the Annual Business Meeting and a regular meeting immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting of the Council. Special meetings may be held upon call of the President or the Executive Committee and shall be held upon written request of the majority of the Board of Directors. All Directors shall be given due notice in writing of the time and place of all meetings, although notice of any meeting may be waived in writing by any Director. A majority of the membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS**

SECTION 1. Elected Officers. The Elected Officers of the Council shall be the President, the Vice President, the Immediate Past President, and the Secretary/Treasurer.

SECTION 2. President. The President shall be the senior Elected Officer of the Council and shall:

- A. preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, and the Annual Business Meeting;
- B. present to the Council at the Annual Business Meeting a report of activities during the President's term of office;
- C. develop charges for all committees that will serve during their term as President and, following approval of the charges by the Board of Directors, oversee the work of all Committees;
- D. select all members and chairs of Committees to serve during their term of office as President subject to the terms of Article XII;



# NCARB BYLAWS

- E. have the power to make appointments to any unfilled or vacant Committee membership during their term as President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, subject to the terms of Article XII;
- F. represent the Board of Directors and its policies to all external and internal constituents including to the Chief Executive Officer; and
- G. perform such other duties and powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time decide.

SECTION 3. Vice President. The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, exercise the duties of and possess all the powers of the President. In addition, the Vice President shall:

- A. develop the Committee charges to be completed during their term of office as President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors;
- B. select the chair of all Committees to serve during their term as President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, subject to the terms of Article XII; and
- C. select all members of Committees to serve during their term of office as President, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, subject to the terms of Article XII.

SECTION 4. Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall:

- A. oversee the financial affairs of the Council and be the primary liaison of the Board of Directors with the person designated by the Chief Executive Officer as the chief financial officer of the Council;
- B. report to the Board of Directors and at the Annual Business Meeting on financial matters of the Council; and
- C. record or cause to be recorded all votes, consents, and the proceedings of all meetings of the Council and of the Board of Directors; and
- D. perform such duties and have such powers as the Board of Directors may designate.

Records of the Council meetings shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any Member Board.

In the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer from any meeting of the Council or from any meeting of the Board of Directors, a temporary Secretary/Treasurer designated by the person presiding at the meeting shall perform the secretarial duties of the Secretary/Treasurer.

SECTION 5. Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer shall be the senior appointed officer of the Council. Such person shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and shall have such compensation and benefits as shall be established from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer shall have general charge of the management and

administration of the Council's affairs, the implementation of policies established from time to time by the Board of Directors and such other duties and powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine, subject always to the ultimate authority of the Board of Directors under applicable law and these Bylaws.

SECTION 6. Bonding. The Council's Chief Executive Officer and those in general charge of the Council's financial matters shall be bonded in an amount of not less than \$500,000.

The Chief Executive Officer may decide to have others bonded in the Council. The cost of such bond shall be paid from funds of the Council.

## ARTICLE IX—COUNCIL SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

SECTION 1. Council Record. The Council shall, upon request of individual members of the architectural profession, secure, authenticate, and record factual data of an applicant's education, training, examination, practice, and character for purposes of establishing a Council Record. Upon request of the applicant, this Council Record will be forwarded to any Member Board or to any foreign Registration authority with whom the Council has an agreement for mutual reciprocity.

SECTION 2. Council Certification. Council Certification shall be given to an Architect holding a Council Record verifying that the Architect has complied with the Council standards of education, training, examination, Registration, and character. In addition to this verification, the Certification shall carry the recommendation of the Council that Registration be granted the Architect without further examination of credentials. For applicants registered as Architects in countries where formal agreements with the Council exist, the standards and procedures for Certification will be in accordance with such written agreements or as otherwise established by the Council. Architects certified by the Council shall have a Certificate incorporated in their Council Record.

SECTION 3. Annual Renewal. Council Certification shall be in effect for a period of one year. Renewal of the Council Certification shall be predicated upon the submission of an annual fee and an annual report containing such information as the Council deems appropriate. The Council Certification shall lapse if the annual fee and report are not received by the Council within such grace period as the Board of Directors may establish. A lapsed Council Certification may be reactivated by paying delinquent renewal fees, furnishing delinquent annual reports, and paying such fee for reinstatement as the Board of Directors may establish from time to time.

SECTION 4. Revocation of Certification. The Council shall revoke an Architect's Council Certification if:

- A. a Member Board has revoked (without limitation as to time) the Architect's Registration for a cause other than nonpayment of renewal fees or failure to file information with the Member Board; or

# NCARB BYLAWS

- B. facts are subsequently revealed which show that the Architect was actually ineligible for Council Certification at the time of Council Certification.

In addition, the Council may revoke an Architect's Council Certification if:

- C. a Member Board or a court makes a finding, not reversed on appeal, that the Architect has, in the conduct of their architectural practice, violated the law or has engaged in conduct involving wanton disregard for the rights of others; or
- D. the Architect has surrendered or allowed to their Registration to lapse with the Member Board in connection with disciplinary action pending or threatened; or
- E. a Member Board has denied the Architect registration for a cause other than the failure to comply with the educational, experience, age, citizenship, or other technical qualifications for registration in such jurisdiction; or
- F. the Architect has willfully misstated a material fact in a formal submission to the Council.

The Council may reinstate a Certification previously revoked, if the cause of the revocation has been removed, corrected, or otherwise remedied.

In order to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities under this Section, each Member Board shall (unless prohibited by applicable law) report to the Council the occurrence of any event that qualifies an Architect for revocation of their Council Certification, as described herein.

## ARTICLE X—COUNCIL SERVICES TO MEMBER BOARDS

SECTION 1. Architect Registration Examination. The Council shall prepare an Examination for use by Member Boards. The Board of Directors shall issue, from time to time, rules respecting the administration and grading of Examinations, which shall include, among other things, the schedule of charges for the use of the Examinations, the date or dates on which Examinations may be administered, safeguards to prevent improper disclosure of information respecting the Examinations, and such other matters respecting the administration and grading of Examinations as the Board of Directors deems appropriate. Every Member Board using the Examination shall comply strictly with the rules issued by the Board of Directors, unless the Board of Directors agrees to waive any of the rules in a particular case. If any Member Board refuses to comply with the rules applicable to its use of the Examination or, after so agreeing, fails to comply with such rules, the Board of Directors may withhold the Examinations from such Member Board until it is satisfied that such Member Board will comply with such rules thereafter. Any Member Board which refuses Registration to architects holding the Council Certification for the reason that the Member Board has requirements or procedures for grading the Examination which are different from the requirements or procedures established by the Council shall be denied the use of the

Examinations until such policy of refusing Registration is revoked; but the Board of Directors may, with sufficient cause, waive the denial of the use of the Examinations.

SECTION 2. Architectural Experience Program. The Council shall prepare a structured experience program for use by Member Boards. The Board of Directors shall issue, from time to time, updates to program rules and opportunities to remain relevant with experiences and competencies necessary for the current practice of architecture.

SECTION 3. Additional Services. Additional services may be offered as determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.

SECTION 4. Forms and Documents. In order to ensure uniformity in the reporting of an applicant's education, experience, Registration (if applicable), and other necessary supporting data for determining eligibility for the Examination, Council Certification, or reciprocal Registration, the Council shall study and prepare forms, documents, and/or systems appropriate for use by both the Council and Member Boards.

SECTION 5. Research. The Council, through work of committees, shall engage in research pertinent to all matters relating to legal Registration of architects.

SECTION 6. International Relations. The Council shall engage in the exploration and formulation of agreements with foreign countries to allow architects to practice in countries other than their own.

## ARTICLE XI—FINANCES, FUNDS, ACCOUNTING, INVESTMENTS, AND RECORDS OF THE COUNCIL

SECTION 1. Dues and Fees.

- A. Annual membership dues may be changed for any period, by resolution adopted at an Annual Business Meeting with implementation of any increase to take place not less than three years after such resolution is adopted.
- B. The fees to be charged for services to members of the architectural profession shall be established, from time to time, by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the Board of Directors present and voting.

SECTION 2. Operating Fund.

- A. All membership dues and all fees and other revenues received from any of the activities of the Council shall be placed in the operating fund of the Council. The operating fund shall be administered by the Council's chief financial officer.
- B. As soon as feasible following the Annual Business Meeting, the Board of Directors shall adopt a general budget which shall show the anticipated income and expenditures for the current year.



# NCARB BYLAWS

- C. No, Director, Committee, or employee of the Council shall have the right, authority, or power to expend any money of the Council, to incur any liability for and in its behalf, or to make any commitment which will or may be deemed to bind the Council in any expense or financial liability, unless such expenditure, liability, or commitment has been properly incorporated into the budget, and the Board of Directors has made an appropriation to pay the same.
- D. The Fiscal Year of the Council shall be from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next succeeding year.

SECTION 3. Securities and Investments. In accordance with the Board of Directors' policies and directions by the Board of Directors to the Chief Executive Officer, the Council's chief financial officer shall have charge of the investment of all funds of the Council not held in its operating fund. In accordance with such policies and such directions, such chief financial officer may sell, purchase, transfer, and convey securities and exercise all rights, by proxy or by participation, of the Council with respect to such securities, or may authorize such purchases, sales, transfers, conveyances, and the exercise of any or all of said rights.

SECTION 4. Liabilities of Officers, Directors, and Employees. No Director, officer, or employee of the Council shall be personally liable for any decrease of the capital, surplus, income, balance, or reserve of any fund or account resulting from their acts performed in good faith and within the scope of their authority.

SECTION 5. Disclosure of Records. Upon written request made with reasonable specificity, a Member Board shall have the right to receive from the Council with reasonable promptness copies of any Council record it may reasonably request, but excluding:

- A. information barred from disclosure by an applicable statute;
- B. trade secrets;
- C. information disclosed to the Council in reliance upon its continued non-disclosure;
- D. information that, if released, would give an inappropriate advantage to a competitor or bidder with respect to a request for proposals issued or about to be issued by the Council;
- E. personnel information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- F. attorney-client communications and attorney work-product materials;
- G. transcripts and personal information respecting Certificate applicants or holders without the permission of such applicant or holder;

- H. contents and results of examinations except to the extent disclosure is provided for in the contract between the Council and the Member Board together with data, methodologies, practices, plans, proposals, records of committee deliberations and other records relating to the content, administration, scoring or security of examinations; and
- I. information arising from investigatory cases.

Any of the excluded records that the Council has already distributed publicly shall, notwithstanding the preceding sentence, be available to any Member Board.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, Council records furnished to a Member Board shall not be distributed by the Member Board other than to members of such Member Board. The Council may charge the Member Board only reasonable costs to comply with the request. Such charges shall be itemized by the Council in an invoice to the Member Board.

## ARTICLE XII—COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Board Committees. The Board of Directors may, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office or as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, create one or more Board Committees. Board Committees, to the extent provided in the applicable authorizing action of the Board of Directors or these Bylaws, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the Council. A Board Committee may not, however:

- A. authorize distributions;
- B. approve or recommend to members dissolution, merger, or the sale, pledge, or transfer of all or substantially all of the Council's assets;
- C. elect, appoint, or remove Directors or fill vacancies on the Board of Directors or on any Board Committees; or
- D. adopt, amend, or repeal the Council's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.

The designation of, and the delegation of authority to, a Board Committee shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual Director, of any responsibility imposed upon them by law.

SECTION 2. Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be a Board Committee and shall comprise the President, the Vice President, the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President. The Executive Committee shall:

- A. act for the Board of Directors between meetings only as directed by the Board of Directors;
- B. prior to the start of the new fiscal year of the Council, review the budget for the next fiscal year for presentation to the Board of Directors; and

# NCARB BYLAWS

- C. periodically review the budget, investments, financial policies, and financial positions of the Council and make recommendations concerning the same to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.

SECTION 3. Audit Committee. The Audit Committee, appointed in the same manner and with the same term as all other Committees, shall be a Board Committee and shall consist of the Secretary/Treasurer, who shall serve as the chair of the Committee, up to one additional Executive Committee member, and from one to three additional members of the Board of Directors who are not members of the Executive Committee. The Audit Committee shall report to the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for overseeing the Council's financial controls and auditing, including receiving the annual audit and considering the items of internal accounting control that arise from the audit, from personnel changes, and from the implementation of changes in policies that affect internal financial controls. The Audit Committee shall annually select and engage an independent auditor of the Council's financial records.

SECTION 4. Advisory Committees. Advisory Committees may be created by affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which there is a quorum or as set forth in these Bylaws. The Board of Directors may delegate to any of the Elected Officers the authority to supervise the work of any of the Advisory Committees.

SECTION 5. Committee Membership. In accordance with Article VIII, Section 2, the President shall select the members and the chair of all Committees subject to approval by the Board of Directors, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws. The terms of all Committee appointments shall be for one year, during the President's term in such capacity, except as otherwise approved by the Board of Directors or as set forth in these Bylaws. Any unfilled or vacant Board Committee positions shall be filled in accordance with the regular procedures for appointment. The Board of Directors may at any time, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office, discontinue a Board Committee or Advisory Committee, and make any changes in a Committee's membership without regard to the terms of appointment of the Committee members, other than with respect to those Committees established by these Bylaws (which may only be discontinued or have its membership structure changed by amendment of these Bylaws).

SECTION 6. Reports of Committees. Each Committee shall report in writing annually to the Board of Directors, at least 60 days prior to the date of the Annual Business Meeting and shall make interim reports to the Board of Directors as directed.

SECTION 7. General Procedure of Committees. Every Committee shall perform in accordance with these Bylaws and with the directions of the Board of Directors. The provisions of these Bylaws that govern Board of Directors' meetings, action without meetings, notice and waiver of notice, and quorum and voting requirements of the Board of Directors shall apply to meetings and action of the Committees and their members as well. With the approval of the Board of Directors, every Committee may call and hold meetings and meet with other organizations or their representatives; provided that an Advisory Committee may not take any action to bind the Board of Directors or otherwise exercise any powers or authority of the Board of Directors,

and no Committee may take any actions prohibited under Article XII, Section 1 of these Bylaws.

SECTION 8. Advisory Committees. The following Advisory Committees are hereby established and may from time to time make recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration, subject to the terms of these Bylaws and applicable law:

- A. Education Committee: The Education Committee shall assess and recommend updates to the Board of Directors with respect to the Council's education and continuing education policies for use by Member Boards and the Council's relationship with the National Architectural Accrediting Board.
- B. Experience Committee: The Experience Committee shall assess and recommend updates to the Board of Directors with respect to the Architectural Experience Program for use by Member Boards.
- C. Examination Committee: The Examination Committee shall assess and recommend updates to the Board of Directors with respect to the Examination for use by Member Boards.
- D. Policy Advisory Committee: The Policy Advisory Committee shall review proposed resolutions and special publications, as directed by the Board of Directors, for their impact on and consistency with Council policies and programs and make recommendations on such matters to the Board of Directors.
- E. Professional Conduct Committee: The Professional Conduct Committee shall oversee the development, application, assessment, and adjudication of Council policies and practices relating to the professional conduct of Council Record holders and others using Council services.
- F. Member Board Executives Committee: The Member Board Executives Committee shall consider issues of concern to the jurisdictions and Member Board Executives.
- G. Regional Leadership Committee: The Regional Leadership Committee shall discharge its responsibilities as described in Article V, Section 6, and consider issues of concern to the Regions. The membership of the Committee shall be the Regional Chairs of each of the Regions, any person designated by the Region as the chief administrative officer of the Region, and the Vice President who shall serve as Chair of the Committee.

# NCARB BYLAWS

- H. **Credentials Committee:** The Credentials Committee shall be responsible for the nomination and election process for positions on the Board of Directors, verify candidate qualifications for office, examine and verify Voting Delegate credentials, report to the membership regarding quorum at the Annual Business Meeting, and tabulate and report election results to the President. Members of the Credentials Committee shall be sitting Member Board Members and/or Member Board Executives.
- I. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:** The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee explores and recommends strategies to improve the diversity, equity, and inclusive culture of NCARB to ensure that the organization represents the population it serves.
- J. **Other:** Committees, task forces, and work groups may be established from time to time by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 9. Select Committees.** Whenever the Council establishes by resolution a Committee, a majority of whose members are, in accordance with such resolution, to be selected by a procedure other than those set out in Section 5 of Article XII, such a Committee shall be deemed a Select Committee and shall have, in addition to the duties and powers set out in the resolution, the right, to offer resolutions to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting on subjects germane to the work of such Select Committee, provided such resolutions are included in the annual report of such Select Committee submitted to the Board of Directors in accordance with Section 6 of this Article XII. Such annual report of a Select Committee shall be distributed to the membership not later than 30 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting without revision by the Board of Directors. A Select Committee may be a Board Committee or an Advisory Committee, provided that the procedures and authority applicable to such Select Committee are consistent with those of a Board Committee or Advisory Committee, as applicable.

## **ARTICLE XIII—INDEMNIFICATION**

In addition to such further indemnification as may be authorized by the Board of Directors from time to time consistent with applicable law, to the fullest extent permitted by law, including without limitation Section 504 of the Iowa Code known as the Revised Iowa Nonprofit Council Act (“RINCA”) and after the Council’s Board of Directors makes the determination that the standards of Section 504.852 of RINCA (or successor provisions) have been met for the specific proceeding at issue, any present or former Director or employee determined by Board of Directors to be an executive employee, or member of a Committee, or the estate or personal representative of any such person, made a party to any action, suit or other proceeding, civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that such person is or was serving the Council as such, or serving at the Council’s request in any other entity or with respect to the Council’s employee benefit plan, shall be indemnified by the Council against the reasonable expenses, including without limitation amounts paid by way of judgment, fine or penalty and reasonable defense costs

including attorney’s fees incurred in connection with the defense of such proceeding whether or not such defense shall be successful in whole or in part, or in connection with any appeal therein, or any settlement of any such proceeding on terms approved by the Board of Directors. Such indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such persons may be entitled. Any other present or former employee or agent of the Council may also be indemnified with the approval of the Board of Directors. Expenses incurred of the character described above may, with the approval of the Board of Directors, be advanced to any person entitled to indemnity upon satisfaction of the requirements of Section 504.854 (or successor provisions) of RINCA. The Council shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person described above, or any other employee, volunteer or agent of the Council, against liability asserted against or incurred by such person on account of their status as such, whether or not the Council would have the power to indemnify or advance expenses to such persons.

## **ARTICLE XIV—AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any special meeting or Annual Business Meeting of the Council by resolution submitted to the Member Boards not less than 30 days prior to the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered. An affirmative vote by not less than two-thirds of the Member Boards shall be required to secure adoption of any amendment to these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XV—TRANSITION**

**SECTION 1. Transition Plan.** The following governance provisions shall apply for the respective time periods set forth below. Except as modified below, these Bylaws shall be in full effect during the transition periods identified below. For purposes of this Article XV, “ABM” shall refer to the Annual Business Meeting of the Council taking place in the corresponding year.

### **SECTION 2. 2023-2024 Term.**

- A. **Elected Officers.**
  - (i) The Elected Officers shall include the following positions: Secretary; Treasurer; Second Vice President; First Vice President/President-Elect (to be known as Vice President); President/Chair of the Board (to be known as President); and Immediate Past President.
  - (ii) The Elected Officers shall be those persons elected or succeeding to office as set forth in those Bylaws in effect during the 2023 ABM. The Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall, respectively, exercise such duties and have such authority and responsibility as set forth in those Bylaws in effect during the 2023 ABM.
- B. **Elected Officer Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy in:
  - (i) The office of President, the Vice President shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.

# NCARB BYLAWS

- (ii) The office of Vice President, the Second Vice President shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (iii) The office of Second Vice President, the Treasurer shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (iv) The office of Treasurer, the Secretary shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term (without vacating the office of Secretary). Such person shall be considered the Treasurer for purposes of Elected Officer succession for the following term.
- (v) The office of Secretary, the Board shall appoint an individual to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- (vi) The office of Immediate Past President, such office shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

C. At-Large Directors. There will be no At-Large Directors

## SECTION 3. 2024 ABM Election / 2024 – 2025 Term.

A. Elected Officers.

- (i) The Elected Officers shall include the following positions: Secretary/Treasurer; Second Vice President; Vice President; President; and Immediate Past President.
- (ii) The Elected Officers shall be the following persons, except as may be modified by any vacancies arising during the previous term:
  - Secretary/Treasurer: That person who served as Secretary during the previous term (except in the event of a vacancy in the office of Secretary or Treasurer during the 2023-2024 term, in which case the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws).
  - Second Vice President: That person who served as Treasurer during the previous term, subject to election as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
  - Vice President: That person who served as Second Vice President during the previous term, subject to election as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
  - President: That person who served as Vice President during the previous term.

- Immediate Past President: That person who served as President during the previous term.

(iii) The Second Vice President shall, in the absence of the President and Vice President, exercise the duties of and possess all the powers of the President.

B. Elected Officer Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in:

- (i) The office of President, the Vice President shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (ii) The office of Vice President, the Second Vice President shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (iii) The office of Second Vice President, the Secretary/Treasurer shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (iv) The office of Secretary/Treasurer, the Board shall appoint an individual to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- (v) The office of Immediate Past President, such office shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

C. At-Large Directors. There shall be two At-Large Directors. The At-Large Directors shall be elected as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.

## SECTION 4. 2025 ABM Election / 2025-2026 Term.

A. Elected Officers.

- (i) The Elected Officers shall include the following positions: Secretary/Treasurer; Second Vice President; Vice President; President; and Immediate Past President.
- (ii) In the event that a Secretary/Treasurer was elected for the 2024-2025 term due to a prior vacancy in the position of Secretary or Treasurer, then such person shall remain Secretary/Treasurer during this 2025-2026 term and there shall be no Second Vice President.<sup>1</sup>
- (iii) The Elected Officers shall be the following persons, except as may be modified by any vacancies arising during the previous term:
  - Secretary/Treasurer: That person elected as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.

---

<sup>1</sup> A new Secretary/Treasurer is supposed to be elected at the 2025 ABM and serve two terms. However, if there is a vacancy in the Secretary or Treasurer position during the 2023-2024 term and a new Secretary/Treasurer is elected in 2024 for the 2024- 2025 term, then that person could remain as Secretary/Treasurer during 2025-2026 and the Second Vice President position could disappear a year earlier than planned.

# NCARB BYLAWS

- Second Vice President: That person who served as Secretary/Treasurer during the previous term, subject to election as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
- Vice President: That person who served as Second Vice President during the previous term, subject to election as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
- President: That person who served as Vice President during the previous term.
- Immediate Past President: That person who served as President during the previous term.

(iv) The Second Vice President shall, in the absence of the President and Vice President, exercise the duties of and possess all the powers of the President.

B. Elected Officer Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in:

- (i) The office of President, the Vice President shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (ii) The office of Vice President, the Second Vice President (or if there is no Second Vice President, then the Secretary/Treasurer) shall fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term and the following term.
- (iii) The office of Second Vice President, such office shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term.
- (iv) The office of Secretary/Treasurer, the Board shall appoint an individual to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the term.
- (v) The office of Immediate Past President, such office shall remain vacant for the remainder of the term.

SECTION 5. 2026 ABM Election / 2026-2027 Term.

A. Elected Officers.

- (i) The Elected Officers shall include those positions as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1, of these Bylaws.
- (ii) The Elected Officers shall be the following persons, except as may be modified by any vacancies arising during the previous term:

- Secretary/Treasurer: That person who served as Secretary/Treasurer during the 2025-2026 term; except if there were (a) no election for Secretary/Treasurer at the 2025 ABM or (b) a vacancy in the position of Secretary/Treasurer during the 2025-2026 term, then the Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
- Vice President: That person who served as Second Vice President during the previous term, subject to election as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.
- President: That person who served as Vice President during the previous term.
- Immediate Past President: That person who served as President during the previous term.

B. Elected Officer Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled as set forth in Article VII, Section 6, of these Bylaws.

SECTION 6. 2027 ABM Election / 2027-2028 Term. The Elected Officer and all other Director positions shall be as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1, and Article VII, Section 1, respectively, of these Bylaws and shall be filled as set forth in Article VII, Section 5, of these Bylaws. All vacancies shall be filled as set forth in Article VII, Section 6, of these Bylaws.

SECTION 7. Transition Termination. This Article XV shall be automatically removed from these Bylaws upon the adjournment of the 2027 ABM.