



From left: Architecture students participate in an NCARB-sponsored design competition; NCARB staff architects chat with emerging professionals; NCARB CEO Michael J. Armstrong (left) joins industry experts for a panel on the future of licensure.

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NCARB at a Glance

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

Founded: 1919

Headquarters: Washington, DC

CEO: Michael J. Armstrong

2023-2024 President: Jon Alan Baker, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP

2023-2023 First-Vice President/President-elect: Kenneth Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

Website: ncarb.org

Destination Architect: destinationarchitect.org

NCARB by the Numbers: ncarb.org/nbtn2024



From left: NCARB volunteers participate in the FY24 Committee Summit; Members of the U.S. licensing boards at the 2023 Annual Business Meeting; President Jon Baker.

Mission

NCARB, in collaboration with licensing boards, facilitates the licensure and credentialing of architects to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Who is NCARB?

Our members include the architectural licensing boards of the 50 U.S. states, District of Columbia, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and U.S. Virgin Islands. Our programs are developed by practicing architects, licensure candidates, and educators from across the country.

Vision

Ensuring safe places and spaces for all communities.

Strategic Goals

- **Facilitate Licensure:** NCARB's programs and services enable the pursuit, achievement, and ongoing maintenance and mobility of architectural licensure.
- **Foster Collaboration:** NCARB's proactive engagement with licensing boards and industry organizations advances the understanding and effectiveness of architectural regulation.
- **Maximize Value:** NCARB's programs and services further the progress of our licensing boards and customers.



What We Do

Help architects expand their professional reach with the NCARB Certificate. With the [NCARB Certificate](#), architects can quickly apply for a reciprocal license in any of the U.S. jurisdictions, as well as several foreign countries—including Canada, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand.

Develop the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). The ARE is the [national examination](#) that all licensure candidates must take to become licensed.

Develop and facilitate the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®). The AXP is a comprehensive [experience program](#), much like a medical residency, that ensures licensure candidates gain the knowledge and skills required to practice architecture.

Share exclusive data on the path to licensure. Our yearly publication, [NCARB by the Numbers](#), provides key insights into the number of U.S. architects, architectural education, diversity in the profession, and more.

Build community and inspire the next generation of architects. Through our dedicated outreach program, we visit schools, firms, and AIA chapters across the country to ensure that students, licensure candidates, and architects are familiar with the current licensure process.

Provide continuing education opportunities. With [NCARB's Continuum Education Series](#), architects can earn continuing education from the comfort of their home—free for NCARB Certificate holders and licensure candidates.

2024-2025 Initiatives

Licensure Data

- In 2023, there were 121,368 architects licensed in the United States—one percent more than the previous year.
- Architects continue to hold licenses in multiple states. U.S. architects now hold 142,302 reciprocal (out-of-state) licenses, a 2% decrease from 2022.
- Over 37,700 candidates are pursuing an architecture license—a 7 percent increase from 2022.
- Additional data is available in the 2024 NCARB by the Numbers—which features key insights into the path to licensure, including attrition and diversity in the profession, and will be published July 2024.

Pathways to Practice

- NCARB has committed to developing a framework for [multiple paths to licensure](#), acknowledging both the traditional approach via an accredited education and other approaches that utilize other means of qualification and work experience in lieu of education.
- Currently, NCARB is in the middle of a multi-year effort to re-envision the process of becoming an architect.
- Over the next several years, our expert volunteers will explore how best to measure and assess competency on the path to licensure—including opportunities to incorporate more flexibility into the core licensure requirements.

Building on Belonging: Joint Study with the National Organization of Minority Architects

- NCARB and NOMA announced the next phase of their joint study: [Building on Belonging](#), a series of surveys and action items following up on initial findings from Baseline on Belonging
- The first Building on Belonging survey, conducted at the end of 2023, investigates licensure awareness and accessibility among candidates and their impact on their career choices
- The [second Building on Belonging survey](#) explored the levels of support firms provided AXP candidates and how this impacted their ability to complete the program.
- Subsequent surveys will explore topics including difficult areas to gain AXP credit and potential overlap in the AXP and ARE.
- NCARB is continuing to work on recommendations from the 2023 [action plan](#) to address the impediments seen in the study.

Commitment to Diversity

- In recent years, NCARB has worked to expand its volunteer pool to emphasize diversity of gender, race, geography, age, perspective (architect vs. non-architect), and physical ability.
- To do this, a volunteer pool beyond those serving on licensing boards has been enlisted to provide an expanded population with more diversity potential.

- In 2021, the Board of Directors updated the organization’s [Policy on Diversity and Inclusion](#) to better reflect NCARB’s holistic approach of ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels—including committee volunteers, licensing board members, and the national Board.
- NCARB’s membership added a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee to NCARB’s Bylaws to demonstrate the Council’s ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and send a clear signal that this work is a priority to the organization.
- Data from our upcoming 2024 NCARB by the Numbers publication indicates that there is increasing equity and diversity along the path to licensure, especially at early career stages.
- To correctly address customers, NCARB added a new optional feature in My NCARB that allows Record holders to add preferred name and/or pronouns to their profile.

Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®)

- ARE 5.0’s divisions mirror the six practice areas of the AXP, so candidates can use the experience program to guide their professional growth and exam strategy.
- Retiring the rolling clock: NCARB [retired the rolling clock policy](#) in May 2023 and adopted a score validity policy, basing the validity of passed exam scores on the version of the exam instead of a fixed time frame. Since then, over 3,000 candidates had at least one [ARE 5.0 credit reinstated](#).
- ICC Code Update: All code-related items on the ARE will reference the 2021 International Code Council (ICC) family of codes and related standards, rather than the 2018 family. When necessary, NCARB will provide excerpts from the 2021 ICC family of codes as references on case studies.
- Quantitative-fill-in-the-blank (QFIB): The exam will no longer include quantitative-fill-in-the-blank (QFIB) item types. NCARB strives to align with evolving testing best practices, which indicate that other item types used on the ARE assess candidates’ qualifications more effectively.
- Enhanced Score Reports: The [new score reports](#) are designed to provide clearer feedback on failed division performance so candidates can understand where to focus their test prep before retaking a division. Score reports now include a scaled score, which provides a consistent metric for interpreting scores across divisions.
- Free Practice Programs: NCARB has launched free full-length, fully scored [practice programs](#) for each division of ARE 5.0. These practice exams provide a no-cost, quality study resource for all candidates to prepare for the ARE. Exam data shows the practice exams are [positively impacting pass rates](#).
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Accommodation: Beginning June 28, 2022, NCARB began offering exam accommodations for candidates who speak English as a second language. Candidates who speak English as a second language will be eligible for extra time on the exam and access to a word-to-word translation dictionary.

Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure (IPAL)

- IPAL is a structured path to earning an architecture license that gives students the opportunity to complete all the core licensure requirements while earning a degree.
- Since launching the initiative in 2015, there are currently 33 programs at 28 schools that offer an IPAL option or are in the process of developing their curriculum.

NCARB Certificate

- In 2018, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) released a report on enhancing license portability, recognizing the NCARB Certificate as a “vehicle for multi-state practice” and “a factor for expedited licensing.”
- In 2017, NCARB launched two alternative paths to certification for architects without a NAAB-accredited degree:
 - Two Times AXP: Architects with an architecture-related degree can satisfy the education requirement for certification by documenting two times the required hours in each of the AXP’s experience areas.
 - Certificate Portfolio: Architects with any other education can satisfy the education requirement by submitting a portfolio addressing the areas of the NCARB Education Standard.
- There are over 50,000 NCARB Certificate holders.

US-UK MRA

- As of April 25, 2023, U.S. architects can take advantage of a new mutual recognition agreement between NCARB and our U.K. counterpart, the Architects Registration Board (ARB), to earn reciprocal licensure in the United Kingdom.
- To be eligible for reciprocity in the United Kingdom, U.S. architects must:
 - Hold a valid license in good standing from a U.S. jurisdiction that is participating in the agreement
 - Have an active NCARB Certificate granted through the standard path
 - Have the right to work in the United Kingdom
- Contact NCARB to get the process started.

Come Visit Us at A’24: Join us at one of these sessions involving NCARB staff:

- Building Alliances: Learning from the Latinx Experience | 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 6
- U.K. & U.S. Mutual Recognition Agreement: 13 Months Later | 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 | 1.50 LUs/RIBA
- Architectural Resolve to Evolve (ARE): Getting Licensed | 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 | 1.50 LUs/RIBA
- Building on Belonging—How to Implement DEI Solutions at Work | 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 6 | 1.00 LU/RIBA
- Global Competency: Shaping the Future of International Practice | 4 p.m. on Friday, June 7
- Ask Anything (Next Gen Lounge) | 10 a.m. on Friday, June 7 | Expo floor

2024 Annual Business Meeting

- Every June, delegates representing the 55 U.S. licensing boards gather for NCARB’s Annual Business Meeting. The 2024 Annual Business Meeting will meet June 13-15, 2024.
- During the three-day conference, board members will discuss updates to our programs, elect new officers, and set the agenda for the year ahead.

President Jon Allen Baker, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Jon Alan Baker, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of San Diego, California, is a principal with DLR Group, an integrated international design firm delivering architecture, engineering, interiors, planning, and building optimization. Baker specializes in the design and planning of educational facilities throughout Southern California.

As a gubernatorial appointee, Baker was a member of the California Architects Board from 2005-2018, serving four terms as board president. Actively involved with NCARB since 2006, he has served at all levels of regional leadership for the Western Conference (Region 6), and many NCARB committees including the Audit, Education, Examination, Policy Advisory, Procedures and Documents, Regional Leadership committees and the Council's Resiliency Work Group. Baker served three years on the NCARB Board of Directors as the director of Region 6 from 2009-2011, and was re-elected in 2018. He was elected as NCARB's FY23

first vice president/president-elect at the organization's 2022 Annual Business Meeting and his term ends in June 2024.

In 2009, Baker was inducted into the AIA College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in recognition of his career-long achievements in advancing the profession of architecture. He is the former president of AIA San Diego, including eight-years of AIA board service and two years on the board of the AIA California Council.

With extensive experience in design and planning of large-scale public and private projects, Jon's professional experience covers 40 years of professional practice and firm ownership. He is a California-licensed architect, holds an NCARB Certificate, and has been licensed to practice architecture in 10 states.

President-Elect Kenneth R. Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Kenneth R. Van Tine, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of Brighton, Michigan, has been a member of NCARB since 1986. His term as president begins on June 15, 2024. His service to the organization began in 2012 as treasurer for the Mid-Central Conference (Region 4). Van Tine's commitment to NCARB has continued in the following years as vice chair from 2013-2015 and chair from 2016-2018. In addition to being an active member of Region 4, he has served on the Audit, Experience, Procedures and Documents, and Regional Leadership committees, as well as the ARE 5.0 Item Development Subcommittee. Additionally, Van Tine has served as the Board of Director's liaison to the Professional Conduct Committee and represents NCARB on the board of directors for its software development subsidiary, Lineup®. Van Tine has also represented NCARB as a member of several National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) visiting teams.

Van Tine is the technical design principal, Chief Financial Officer, and a founding partner of inFORM studio—a multidisciplinary design firm of 40, with offices in Detroit and Chicago that practices throughout the United States and internationally. As an active AXP supervisor and a volunteer counselor for teens and young adults at his local church, Van Tine is dedicated to guiding and mentoring young professionals; he has also participated in the AIA Mentorship Program for nearly eight years. His firm has produced seven recipients of the AIA Detroit and/or AIA Michigan Young Architects Award, with the latest receiving the AIA National Young Architects Award. Van Tine holds an NCARB Certificate and is licensed to practice in Michigan and 34 other states and jurisdictions.

Vice President-Elect Edward Marley, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP



Edward Marley, FAIA, NCARB, LEED AP, of Tucson, Arizona, will be inducted as vice president on June 15, 2024. Marley was a member of the Arizona Board of Technical Registration from 2012-2018, where he served as chair for two terms. His volunteer work with NCARB includes the Broadly Experienced Architect, Credentials, Regional Leadership, and Policy Advisory committees. He has also served on the Certification Alternatives Review Team. Marley was elected to the NCARB Board of Directors in 2019, where he served as the director of Region 6 for two years. Previously, Marley served as the secretary/treasurer, vice chair, and chair of Region 6. He was elected to the NCARB Board of Directors as second vice president at the 2023 NCARB Annual Business Meeting.

Marley is vice president of Swaim Associates, LTD, Architects, which he joined in 1983 and was promoted to partner in 1992. Marley has been an NCARB Certificate holder since 1997 and is licensed in eight jurisdictions. A member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) since 1983, he has served as the local chapter secretary and president, as well as the Arizona chapter president. Between 1983 and 1997, Marley was the architect licensing advisor for Arizona. In recognition of these contributions to architecture and his community, Marley was awarded the Arizona Architects Medal in 2004. Marley has served on several local boards and is the president of Cornerstone Building Foundation Charities—which provides scholarships to local building-related educational groups, including the University of Arizona from which he graduated in 1982. In 2024, he was inducted into the AIA College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in recognition of his career-long achievements in advancing the profession of architecture.

Chief Executive Officer Michael J. Armstrong



Prior to joining NCARB in 2011, Mike held senior positions at the International Code Council, ICF International, FEMA, and the Colorado Governor’s Office of Energy Conservation. He began his career with 10 years as an assistant city attorney specializing in land use, zoning and planning, code enforcement, historic preservation, and human resources management. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Juris Doctorate from the Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, California, where he served on the Law Review.

Mike currently serves as President of the Executive Board of the Federations of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and on the Board of the Washington Architectural Foundation. He has served as an adjunct professor at the George Washington University and is a former trustee of the Association of State Floodplain Managers’ (ASFPM) Foundation Board. He is a member of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the District of Columbia Preservation League.

Mike has authored a number of articles for professional journals, and he has provided testimony before committees of the U.S. Congress. He is also licensed to practice law in Colorado and before the U.S. Supreme Court.