

## **Candidate for Vice President**

**Russell Davidson, AIA**  
**Westchester / Hudson Valley**

I believe the best way to know the essential meaning of something is to take aspects of it away until all that is left is the single defining element that is most broadly understood. For the AIA, promoting the positive value of design and the contribution of architects is that core defining value. You cannot take that away from us. It is who we are and why the AIA is still vital to the profession for over 150 years.

Advocacy, broadly defined, is how we get the job done. Government advocacy is generally well understood and organized at local, state and national levels by competent staff and leadership. Public advocacy is not as well understood and our strategy is not coordinated nor focused. There have been many attempts including our most recent sustainability focused campaign, "Walk the Walk." It is not that the AIA has failed to achieve success with public advocacy, it is that this job will never be done. If all of the "publics" served by the profession better appreciate the importance of design and architects, all members will benefit. Improved effectiveness of continued public advocacy is truly the "rising tide that lifts all boats."

This is a simple focus and a complex issue. The AIA has an elaborate web of committees and communities that reveal the rich diversity of our profession. As an AIA leader of a small component and then president of one of the largest regions, I understand how to navigate the complexities and achieve results. I am committed to taking advantage of the "art of the possible" to get things done today, while never compromising on the long term goals of the Institute. As the managing partner of a small firm, I understand the genuine concerns of all practitioners. I am committed to using this perspective as the basis for continuing vigilance to improve the Institute's efforts to advocate for architects and architecture.

## **AIA Experience**

Regional Director, New York, 2009 - 2011

Member, Board Advocacy Committee 2009 - 2011

Member, Communications Committee, 2011

Chairman, Board Advocacy sub-committee - Public Policies, 2011

Chairman, Board Advocacy sub-committee - Public Engagement, 2010

President, AIA New York State, 2007

Treasurer, AIA New York State, 2002 - 2005

Member, Board of Directors, AIA New York State, 2000 - 2001

President, AIA Westchester / Mid-Hudson, 1999

Member, Board of Directors, AIA Westchester / Mid-Hudson, 1997 - 1999