



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIA|LA Announces the 2026 Board of Directors Award Recipients

Annual Honors Celebrate Leadership, Service, and Lasting Contributions to Architecture and the Communities of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, CA — The American Institute of Architects Los Angeles (AIA|LA) is proud to announce the recipients of its **2026 Board of Directors Awards**, recognizing individuals and organizations whose leadership, service, advocacy, and commitment to the public have strengthened both the architectural profession and the communities it serves.

Presented annually by the AIA|LA Board of Directors, these prestigious honors celebrate those whose contributions extend beyond the design of buildings, advancing architecture as a catalyst for civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and positive social impact.

Leading this year's honorees are **Annie Chu, FAIA**, and **Rick Gooding, FAIA**, recipients of the **2026 AIA|LA Gold Medal**, the Chapter's highest honor.

"For more than thirty years, Annie Chu and Rick Gooding have made a lasting contribution to the cultural life of Los Angeles. Their work is distinguished by its intelligence, restraint, and enduring relevance. Through projects that serve the public and strengthen important institutions, they have shown how architecture can quietly but profoundly enrich our city." Says Toni Lewis, AIA, 2026 President, AIA Los Angeles

Among this year's honorees is the inaugural **Community Contribution Award**, presented jointly for the first time by **AIA|LA** and **Architecture for Communities Los Angeles (ACLA)**. Established to recognize individuals, organizations, or firms whose work demonstrates the transformative power of architecture in service to communities,

the inaugural award honors **Jodie Mendelson, AIA, Jessica Orlando, AIA**, and the **AIA Pasadena & Foothill Chapter** for creating the **Ask an Architect** initiative following the devastating Altadena wildfires. Their leadership mobilized volunteer architects to provide guidance, expertise, and hope to homeowners navigating the complex process of recovery and rebuilding.

The recipients will be formally honored during the **2026 AIA|LA Design Awards Ceremony** on **October 27, 2026**, where the Board of Directors Awards will be presented alongside the celebrated **AIA|LA Design Awards** and **Next LA Awards**, recognizing excellence in architecture, emerging talent, and professional leadership.

The complete list of the **2026 AIA|LA Board of Directors Award recipients** includes:

- **Gold Medal Award: Annie Chu, FAIA, Rick Gooding, FAIA – Chu-Gooding**
- **Emerging Practice Award: Now Here**
- **25-Year Award: Hayden Track**
- **Citizen Architect Award: Karen Liljegren, FAIA**
- **The Merry Norris Design Advocate / Developer Award: Century Housing Corporation**
- **The Merry Norris Design Advocate / Builder Award: PCL Construction**
- **Robert Kennard, FAIA Award for Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity: Yu-Ngok Lo, FAIA**
- **Educator of the Year Award: Heather Roberge**
- **Educator of the Year Award: Orhan Ayyüce**
- **Honorary AIA|LA: Mimi Zeiger**
- **Honorary AIA|LA: Raymond Richard Neutra**
- **Building Team Award: LACMA**

The Building Team:

Client

LACMA

Architect

Atelier Peter Zumthor & Partners

Collaborating Architect
Structural Engineering
MEP Engineering, Lighting
Design and Sustainability/LEED
Landscape Design
Civic Engineering
Contractor

Skidmore Owings & Merrill
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Buro Happold
Olin
KPF
Clark Construction

About AIA|LA

The American Institute of Architects Los Angeles (AIA|LA) is one of the nation's largest and most influential chapters of the American Institute of Architects. Through advocacy, education, and community engagement, AIA|LA advances the value of architecture and empowers architects to improve the quality of life throughout Los Angeles.

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