

2021 ARE Scholarship Thesis Statement and Essay

In an essay of 300 words or less, please describe how you will take on the mantle of the Architect for the Future of our World, and how licensure will help you play that role.

Thesis Statement

As a middle-aged queer person still in the beginning stages of my career, I bring a different perspective on many of the issues currently facing our industry as well as compassion and empathy associated with my broad life experience. As a licensed Architect, I would be confident in taking on a leadership role within my firm and community to directly address inequities and help envision a more just future.

Essay

This past year has proven challenging for all of us and has offered a rare opportunity for us to wake up and heed all that is happening, not just worldwide but in our own backyards. Inequities that have been in the shadows are now staring us in the face. Complacency is the new racism. Since the murder of George Floyd, I have questioned that complacency and challenged my understanding of racism, justice, equity, and all the other painful realities of white privilege. Wondering how it all relates to my work, my office, my community, and myself. Let's just say the struggle is real but we can change, we have to.

My perspective is if we stop talking about the problems at hand our collective memory fades, which is a crucial factor in how we ended up where we are. This collective memory loss has contributed to escalating racial tension, the worsening effect of climate change, and complacency within our industry and practices. Therefore, one of the most important issues that I will personally focus on is facilitating and participating in difficult conversations within my office and community. Continuing to ask questions and challenge the status quo is paramount for our future. As a licensed Architect, I would feel more confident in taking on leadership roles allowing me to be part of the change that I believe in.

Licensure would also motivate me to become a mentor. Not only to younger interns in my office and out in the community but also to other colleagues. We need to diversify and progress as a workforce in architecture to truly breakthrough and I know that mentoring plays a principle role. Being a licensed Architect is the next necessary step in my career and my ability to elicit change in the world through architecture.