

The CKLDP Selection Jury is anticipating that its strongest candidates will have many of the following characteristics. The heaviest weight will be placed on the answers you give to the leadership essay questions in the application, but the following are important too.

- **Thoughtful Letter of Interest:** Why do you want to be in the program, and what do you hope to achieve and leverage in your career by completing it?
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Strength of the arguments made in each letter, and added weight if the letters come from well-known/respected leaders in the profession or the civic environment (such as Fellows, chapter presidents, executives in firms other than the applicant's own, key clients, elected officials, etc.).
- **Leadership Experiences/Roles** at your firm: Have your employer(s) given you early and significant leadership roles and opportunities? Have you been promoted quickly?
- **AIA/NOMA/ADC/ULI/AFGA (etc.) participation:** Have you supported the profession through volunteer work related to architecture and design? More credit is given for serving on a board, chairing a committee, etc., but all participation counts positively in CKLDP consideration. How were you involved in AIA-S or NOMA-S at architecture school?
- **Civic Leadership and Volunteering:** Have you demonstrated leadership roles in nonprofits, your church/mosque/synagogue, schools, politics, etc. outside of your work life? Have you served on design review boards or something similar? Volunteering at these organizations counts too, but for less than leadership roles.
- **Awards, Recognitions, etc.** in your work or academic career (but with work weighing more heavily)
- **Pursuit of Lifelong Learning/Professional Development:** Have you shown a tendency to continue the learning process after graduation from architecture school? Have you attended professional design conferences (AIA, NOMA, ASPIRE, or related), been published on design or professional topics, obtained an additional degree (to architecture), or pursued related industry or professional certifications or licenses that further your career?
- **X factors:** is there anything else in your background that would lead the Selection Jury to think that you will excel in the CKLDP program or possess hidden additional leadership aptitude? Example: did you work during school and pay all or part of your way through university?
- **International Life Experiences:** Did you earn your degree in another country, work in another country, do a semester internationally, or grow up overseas?
- **Minimum/Maximum Work Qualifications:** Do you meet the experience requirements of
  1. At least two years of architecture-related experience since graduation with an accredited architecture degree? (Applicants DO NOT have to be licensed).
  2. 10 years or less of work experience since your first licensure
- **Are you an AIA member?** The jury will give priority to AIA members in good standing. Not a member now? Join AIA now and make yourself eligible for the cheaper CKLDP registration rate.

Good luck!