

The League Mentorship

Overview

The League Mentorship is a program organized by The Architectural League in partnership with the New York City College of Technology and the City College of New York.

The League Mentorship is made possible by architect and designer mentors who make a commitment to meet with a participating architecture student from the New York City College of Technology (City Tech) or Spitzer School of Architecture at City College of New York (CCNY) to share professional experiences and advice as well as to offer guidance as students prepare for a career in architecture. The program identifies students and practicing professionals with similar interests and brings them together in a student-mentor relationship.

Goals

- Prepare architecture students for professional life after college
- Create an opportunity for professionals to share their expertise with a new generation of aspiring architects and designers
- Provide realistic career expectations to students
- Foster connection between professionals and students of diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds

Requirements

Mentors should be architects or designers based in New York City with a professional degree in architecture and at least 3 years of professional experience after graduation. Mentors do not need to be licensed architects.

Process

Architects and designers interested in becoming mentors should submit the Mentor Application Form available on The Architectural League's website at <https://archleague.org/mentorship/>

Mentees are undergraduate students enrolled in the program of the Department of Architectural Technology at the New York City College of Technology and students enrolled at the Spitzer School of Architecture at City College of New York.

Based on the information collected from applicants via online application forms, students and professionals will be selected, assigned, and introduced to one another via email. After this initial introduction, the frequency and style of communication (email, phone call, video conference, in person) is up to the individuals involved. It is required, however, that mentors and mentees meet face-to-face (virtually or socially distanced) at least twice per semester during the academic year.

Responsibilities & Expectations

Mentors and mentees should commit to the full duration of the program, from November 2020 through May 2021. During the course of the academic year all participants must meet face-to-face (virtually or socially distanced) at least twice per semester. The mentorship program is a collaborative process in which both mentors and mentees commit to sharing their experiences, goals, and expectations.

Mentors

What are the benefits?

- Share knowledge and experience with a younger generation of future architects and designers
- Learn from others who may differ in social, cultural, and economic background
- Opportunity to impact a young architect or designer's career

What makes a successful mentor?

- Effective listening skills
- Ability to establish an honest yet professional dialogue
- Willingness to provide time, guidance, support, and encouragement
- Ability to establish an open dialogue on real issues
- Motivation to share professional experience with a mentee

What's expected of me?

- Be open and honest with the mentee
- Collaborate with the mentee to determine goals and expectations
- Give constructive feedback
- Respect the mentee's time and commitments set during the initial meeting
- Take an interest in the mentee's personal goals
- Guide mentee instead of solving problems for them
- Maintain trust and confidentiality

Programs

Over the course of the program, participants are invited to meet as a group at Mentorship events organized by the League:

- An Introductory Event on November 10, hosted by the League
- During the academic year, at least one participating mentor firm will host a session open to all students participating in the program. The firm will present its work, give students the opportunity to meet partners and staff, and provide time for Q&A and informal discussion.
- A Closing Reception at the end of the academic year, hosted by the League

Covid-19

Please make note that due to Covid-19, meetings will be virtual for the entire length of the program. As a group, mentors and mentees will meet via Zoom. Individually, mentor-mentee pairs can choose to meet using any virtual communications tools, however video-conferencing is recommended.

Contact

Please email shirokawa@archleague.org with any questions.