

The League Mentorship

Overview

The League Mentorship is an annual program organized by The Architectural League of New York in partnership with the New York City College of Technology, the City College of New York, and Kean University.

Through this program, the League matches design professionals with architecture students in the New York/New Jersey area for nine months of one-on-one advising, relationship building, and mutual learning. Over the course of the program, mentors meet regularly with their students, offering them guidance as they prepare for careers in architecture and design. To facilitate these connections, the League organizes a number of group events for both mentors and students, including studio tours, panel discussions, and networking events.

Goals

- Prepare architecture students for meaningful careers in the design industry
- Connect students with experienced practitioners who can provide firsthand knowledge of the realities of the industry
- Create an opportunity for design professionals to introduce the possibilities of the field to a new generation of designers
- Foster connections among professionals and students from diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds

Requirements

Mentors should be architects or designers based in the New York/New Jersey area with a professional degree in architecture and at least 3 years of professional experience after graduation. Mentors do not need to be licensed architects. For potential mentorship opportunities beyond the NY/NJ area, please contact programs@archleague.org.

Selection Process

Architects and designers interested in becoming mentors should complete the Mentor Application Form available at <https://archleague.org/mentorship/>. Mentors are selected based on their professional experience and compatibility with student needs.

Mentees are undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the Department of Architectural Technology at the New York City College of Technology, the Spitzer School of Architecture at City College of New York, and the Michael Graves College of Architecture & Design at Kean University. Mentees are selected by the faculty and staff of their respective schools.

In early fall, students and mentors are matched and introduced to one another via email. After this initial introduction, the frequency and mode of communication (email, phone call, Zoom, in-person) is at the discretion of each individual mentor-mentee pair.

Responsibilities & Expectations

Mentors and mentees should commit to the full duration of the program, from September 2021 through May 2022. During the course of the academic year, all participants must meet face-to-face (virtually or in-person) at least twice per semester, and attend the three mandatory group events, which include the introductory and concluding programs.

What are the benefits?

- Share knowledge and experience with a younger generation of future architects and designers
- Connect with designers and students from different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds
- Impact a young architect or designer's career

What makes a successful mentor?

- Generosity of time, knowledge, and support
- Honesty, enthusiasm, and professionalism
- Compassionate listening skills
- Personal investment in the future of the architecture/design industry
- Ability to maintain a respectful, open dialogue on complex issues
- Willingness to share personal and professional experiences with a mentee

What's expected of me?

- Support your mentee in defining their specific needs, goals, and interests
- Help your mentee make decisions, rather than solving problems for them
- Give constructive, compassionate feedback when appropriate
- Maintain openness, trust, and confidentiality

Events

Over the course of the program, mentors and mentees are invited to meet as a larger group at a series of events organized by the League, including:

- An online Introductory Event at the beginning of the academic year during which mentors and mentees are introduced to one another.
- A Studio Visit (online or in-person) during the academic year, hosted by at least one participating mentor firm. The firm will present its work and provide time for Q&A and informal discussion.
- A Closing Gathering (online or in-person) at the end of the academic year, hosted by the League or by a participating mentor firm.

Covid-19

Please note that, due to the continued risk of Covid-19, all of this year's Mentorship Program group events will be held virtually — at least for the fall semester. However, depending on local health guidelines, each individual mentor-mentee pair can choose to connect in-person, online, or in a combination of the two.

Contact

Please email programs@archleague.org with any questions.