

## **BLACK AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP**

### **SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION**

Architecture plays a vital role in the shaping of our communities, yet the Architecture profession is profoundly lacking in diversity, specifically Black American representation. While Black Americans make up 14% of the US population\*, out of almost 120,000 nationally registered architects, they represent a dismal 2.0% with Black American women representing a staggering less than 0.5%. In its continued commitment to actionable accountability through increasing the diversification of the Architectural profession, AIA Miami is offering a scholarship program specific to the advancement of Black Americans into the profession. The scholarship will strategically focus on education, with the aim of providing opportunities to facilitate an increase in the number of black American architecture graduates; with the potential of becoming licensed professionals, a forward step in closing the racial disparity gap within the profession.

The Black American scholarship supports the recruitment and retention of Black Americans in accredited architectural degree programs by assisting scholarship recipients with offsetting the cost of tuition, books, and materials. A minimum of one scholarship valued up to \$4,500 will be awarded annually. The number and value of awards may vary year-to-year based on applications and available funds.

Each scholarship recipient receives AIA Miami community exposure, in addition to the funds towards their architecture degree cost.

### **ELEGIBILITY**

The AIA Miami Black American Diversity Scholarship is open to those who increase diversity in the profession and meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must identify as Black or Black American or African American
- US citizen/resident
- Open to students actively enrolled in School of Architecture Programs at MDC, UM, FIU or have graduated from MDC or DASH in 2024.

### **SCHEDULE**

- Open: Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Deadline: Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by 11:59pm EST
- Recipient Notification: Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
- Official Announcements:
  - Annual AIA Design Awards Gala, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. A complimentary ticket will be provided for each awardee; please plan on attending this event.
  - AIA Miami website and social media accounts - headshot needed

\*2020 US Census

## APPLICATION CRITERIA

Applicant must submit the following:

- Headshot as a separate file: **LastName.FirstName.Headshot.pdf**
- Short bio as a separate file: **LastName.FirstName.Bio.pdf**
- File name: **LastName.FirstName.AIA Black American Scholarship.pdf**
  - 1 compiled PDF, maximum 15MB, in order shown below
- Proof of current enrollment at MDC, UM, or FIU; OR, letter of acceptance into MDC, UM, or FIU for 2024-2025 academic year; OR, proof of 2024 graduation from DASH
- Minimum GPA of 3.2
- Portfolio/Work Sample (maximum of 5 PDF pages with 300 dpi minimum)
- Two Letters of Recommendation from a teacher/professor or someone in the architecture profession, specific to this scholarship application
- Letter of Interest  
A brief introduction of applicant outlining why applicant has decided to pursue a degree in architecture and how applicant envisions themselves impacting the profession. Include achievements in and out of school such as community involvement, volunteering, club associations, academic awards, etc. Include a brief statement of financial need and how the scholarship will be used - books, supplies, tuition, etc. (1,000 word maximum)

Scholarship Award Recipient Obligations:

- Follow up requirements, 1 year report, due by September 2025. Recipients are required to provide:
  - a short video, 59 seconds max, telling us a little bit about receiving the scholarship and how important it was to you in your academic studies.

The Scholarship is awarded based on recommendations of the Selection Committee, as appointed by the AIA Miami Scholarship Committee.

None of the submitted materials will be returned to the applicant and may be retained and used by AIA Miami.