



INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Volunteer Opportunities: Committees, Councils, Juries & Micro-Volunteer

Volunteers and governance groups are the lifeblood to IDSA's success. They support the Board of Directors' decision-making and empower members in collaboration to accomplish objectives and oversee many programs and initiatives that advance IDSA's strategic and programmatic goals.

Explore these opportunities to get more deeply involved according to your interests and schedule.

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA Awards Committee

The Awards Committee ensures the annual awards program consistently and equitably recognizes achievements in academic excellence and significant contributions to the profession and organization, and remains relevant and valued by the industrial design community. The committee is responsible for administering the awards program, recommending policy and process improvements, and overseeing the awards' juries.

General Responsibilities:

1. Recommend policies governing the IDSA Awards and Student Merit Awards (Graduate and Undergraduate).
2. Determine the types of professional accomplishments that merit award recognition.
3. Assess and recommend equitable awards criteria and processes for application and selection.
4. Evaluate annually the performance and integrity of the awards programs.
5. Participate in promotion of the awards and recipients.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

1. Review awards policies.
2. Determine and recommend new policies that should be created.
3. Strategies as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Composition: Up to eight (8) members. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect, and mix of academic and professional members.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: One to three (1-3) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: Molly Dall'Erta

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA Circular Design Advisory Council

The Circular Design Advisory Council expands understanding of circular design and its role in modern design systems, driving sustainability strategies and solutions within the industry. The council is responsible for developing resources that enhance practical circular design knowledge and application and facilitating its integration into design processes.

General Responsibilities:

- Develop and curate educational and informational content related to circular design.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities: *TBD by the Board of Directors*

Composition: Up to seven (7) members. This is inclusive of council Chair and Chair-Elect and mix of academic and professional members.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: TaNika Switzer

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Design Foundation Scholarship Committee

The Design Foundation Scholarship Committee serves as judges for IDSA Design Foundation's scholarships, enabling the foundation to assist the next generation of industrial design talent. Committee members are responsible for scoring candidate applications and determining scholarship winners.

General Responsibilities:

1. Assess qualifications of candidates without bias and score applications in a timely manner.
2. Determine winners in each scholarship category.
3. Support promotion of the scholarships and recipients.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

- Recommend new policies and requirements for the Foundation scholarship applicants. (Any recommendations must be reviewed and approved by the Foundation Trustees.)

Composition: Five (5) members inclusive of mix of academic and professional members.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: October to December.

Commitment Required: Eight to ten (8-10) hours of application review.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: TBD

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Design Protection Committee

The Design Protection Committee ensures IDSA is well-prepared and strategically positioned in intellectual property issues and litigation. The committee is responsible for maintaining the expert witness webpage and advising the IDSA Board of Directors on important legal matters regarding significant patent court cases and IDSA's engagement in the court cases.

General Responsibilities:

1. Ensure the expert witness webpage remains updated at all times.
2. Oversee the process for IDSA's expert witness list program.
3. Advise the Board when IDSA should engage in significant patent court cases.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

1. Design an IDSA expert witness webpage.
2. Develop a proposal for an expert witness program for the Board of Directors to review and approve.

Composition: Up to eight (8) members. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: TBD

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council champions an inclusive culture that supports and promotes equitable access to opportunities for diverse and future generations of talent, reflecting the communities IDSA serves. The council is responsible for spotlighting and promoting designers from under-represented groups throughout IDSA, engaging the membership in practice of allyship and sponsorship, and overseeing and administering the IDSA Ascension Program.

General Responsibilities:

1. Develop program that enhances the career development of minority industrial designers (Ascension Program).
2. Ensure that IDSA is continuously working towards incorporating DEI into the fabric of the organization's operations and functionality.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities: *TBD by the Board of Directors*

Composition: No maximum. This is inclusive of council Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; one (1) term only. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: TaNika Switzer

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA Education Council

The Education Council serves as judges and peer reviewers of academic education papers on industrial design research and case studies, helping IDSA ensure the integrity, quality, and relevance of scholarly works. The council is responsible for reviewing, selecting, and maintaining a consistent level of high-quality papers for publication and presentation at the annual International Design Conference & Education Symposium.

General Responsibilities:

1. Evaluate and score academic education papers submissions in a timely manner.
2. Identify high-quality academic content for highlighting through various publication vehicles.
3. Select authors to be invited to present their work at the annual conference.
4. Ensure compliance with ethical standards.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

- Recommend high-quality papers focused on cutting edge, innovative practices, research, and tools in industrial design as an informational resource for the annual Education Symposium and academic community.

Composition: Up to ten (10) members, inclusive of council Chair and Chair-Elect, and mix of academic and professional members.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing. Should possess specialized knowledge or in-depth expertise in industry research or practice subject areas, and analytical skills to critically assess scholarly work.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; no maximum number of terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: TBD

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IDSA Virtual Deep Dive Planning Committee

The IDSA Virtual Deep Dive Planning Committee curates and executes at least two virtual, one-day deep dives, one-day conferences focused on pressing, emerging, and high-impact topics in industrial design. The committee is responsible for identifying relevant and provocative themes, recommending speakers, shaping program content, and working in partnership with IDSA staff to ensure a seamless event experience.

About the Deep Dives:

These forums aim to advance thought leadership, foster professional development, and elevate the visibility of contemporary challenges and innovations in the field, as well as support IDSA's Strategic Framework through event-based content. Each forum is designed to be a deep-dive into specific, hot-button issues relevant to the industrial design community — ranging from sustainability and circular design to design ethics, AI integration, or cross-disciplinary collaboration, just to name a few.

General Responsibilities:

1. Identify and evaluate hot topics within the profession using data-driven insights, gathered in partnership with the Research Committee.
2. Develop the schedule and cadence for the events in partnership with staff.
3. Identify and partner with staff in recruiting diverse and qualified speakers and panelists.
4. Support event agenda development and session formats.
5. Promote the events within members' networks.
6. Develop a creative vision for each event to guide and support the IDSA Marketing/Communication team.
7. Continue to develop and iterate on IDSA's deep-dive style event offerings in support of the Strategic Framework.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities: *TBD by the Board of Directors*

Composition: Up to seven (7) members. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing. Prior experience event content curation is helpful, but not required. This is a collaborative, creative, and fast-paced committee best suited for individuals passionate about pushing the boundaries of industrial design conversations.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to four (3-4) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year, attendance at all events* planned by the committee,



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IDSA Virtual Deep Dive Planning Committee (Cont'd)

and assistance with pre-event coordination and content development as needed. Additional availability may be needed in the immediate weeks leading up to each event.

**All committee members receive complimentary access to the deep dives.*

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins June 1.

Staff Contact: TBD

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Nominations & Elections Committee

The Nominations & Elections Committee ensures that the leadership team is composed of qualified, diverse, and effective individuals who can guide IDSA toward its strategic objectives. The committee is responsible for identifying and vetting candidates to serve in elected roles on the Board of Directors and other elected positions within IDSA.

General Responsibilities:

1. Recommend policies and necessary updates to IDSA's nominations and elections processes, ensuring they are transparent, fair, and in compliance with legal and regulatory standards.
2. Identify and vet high-quality member leaders for leadership roles within IDSA.
3. Ensure IDSA leads its nominations and elections processes with a DEI lens.
4. Evaluate without bias candidates' qualifications and experience.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

- Discuss and recommend new policies, practices, and requirements that should be considered by the Board of Directors.

Composition: Seven (7) members with a representative from each of the five (5) Districts and two (2) representatives from the Board of Directors. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: Donté Shannon (interim)

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Publications Committee

The Publications Committee is a diverse team of IDSA members, supported by IDSA staff, responsible for overseeing IDSA's INNOVATION magazine publication. The responsibilities of the committee include developing, curating, and editing content for INNOVATION Magazine in preparation for a quarterly release cadence to subscribers and stakeholders. The committee may often collaborate with members, stakeholders, and sponsors to ensure the accuracy, relevance, and quality of the published content. The Publications Committee contributes to building and maintaining IDSA's brand and reputation through well-crafted, cutting-edge, and impactful INNOVATION issues.

General Responsibilities:

1. Advise on IDSA publication strategies, recommend schedules, and enforce editorial standards for IDSA publications.
2. Recommend additional publications that will meet the expectations of, communicate and provide relevant, emerging design information to IDSA's audience personas.
3. Suggest potential writers and information sources for IDSA publications.
4. Facilitate communication between authors, editors, publishers, and other partner publications.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

1. Identify industry leaders throughout IDSA's history instrumental to the evolution and advancement of industrial design to be featured in celebration of IDSA's 60th anniversary.
2. Acknowledge 120 designers across the four (4) quarterly digital publications.

Composition: Four to six (4-6) members. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing who have a well-tuned sense of trends impacting the industrial design industry and representative of IDSA's diverse audience.

Meetings: As needed.

Commitment Required: Three to five (3-5) hours per month.

Term: One (1) year; up to two consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: INNOVATION Editor

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA Research Committee

The Research Committee is a dedicated group of IDSA members responsible for advancing the organization's understanding of key issues it seeks to address, thereby informing the Board's strategies and actions. The committee's primary role includes identifying relevant research areas, executing research activities, and interpreting and communicating research findings as directed by the Board of Directors. While the Board ensures that all research activities are aligned with IDSA's mission and annual objectives, the Research Committee ensures that IDSA complies with research best practices and ethical guidelines. The Research Committee plays a key role in generating data-driven insights that enable the organization to make informed decisions and enhance its impact.

General Responsibilities:

1. Conduct research and produce significant, valuable data that positions IDSA as the trusted hub for industrial design research and industry data.
2. Uncover critical insights and trends.
3. Utilize research findings to highlight the value of design.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities: *TBD by the Board of Directors*

Composition: Up to six (6) members. This is inclusive of committee Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing who possess design research experience.

Meetings: Monthly.

Commitment Required: Eight to ten (8-10) hours per month including participation in a minimum of eight (8) meetings per year.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: Donté Shannon (interim)

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA Awards Jury

The Awards Jury serves as judges for the IDSA Awards or the Student Merit Awards (SMA), supporting IDSA's recognition of professional contributions and achievement in the organization, profession, and academic advancement, and of exceptional student design talent, respectively. Jury members are responsible for scoring candidate applications and determining winners of IDSA's distinguished honors and student achievement.

Jury members serve in one of the following sub-groups: 1) IDSA Awards, 2) Graduate SMA, or 3) Undergraduate SMA.

General Responsibilities:

1. Assess qualifications of candidates without bias and score applications in a timely manner.
2. Support promotion of the awards and recipients.
3. Offer feedback on jury experience for continuous process improvement.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

- Review and select award winners.

Composition: Five (5) members each per sub-group and inclusive of mix of academic and professional members.

Qualifications: IDSA members in good standing and representative of IDSA's diverse communities.

Meetings (IDSA Awards): Kickoff meeting and up to two (2) judging selection meetings.

Meetings (SMA): Kickoff meeting and meetings as needed.

Commitment Required (IDSA Awards): Four to eight (4-8) hours between May and July.

Commitment Required (SMA): Four to eight (4-8) hours between May and June.

Term: One (1) year; up to two (2) consecutive terms. Term begins May 1.

Staff Contact: Molly Dall'Ert

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International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) Jury

The IDEA Jury serves as judges for the annual International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA), helping IDSA identify and honor exceptional achievement and promote innovation and excellence in industrial design. The jury is responsible for scoring entries on established criteria and determining IDEA winning designs across 20 categories through two rounds of judging.

Opportunities to participate in either or both rounds of judging are available. The first round of judging is completed online. The second round of judging finalists' entries is conducted in-person.

General Responsibilities:

1. Assess submission materials without bias and score award entries in a timely manner.
2. Maintain high level of quality and rigor in evaluation and ensure decisions are based solely on award criteria.
3. Support promotion of the awards and winning designs.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities:

- Review and select award winners.

Composition: No maximum and representative of internationally diverse disciplines and design specialties in industry, consultancy, academia, and private practice. This is inclusive of jury Chair and Chair-Elect.

Qualifications: Expert designers, thought leaders, and visionaries in industrial design.

Meetings: Monthly from Q1 to Q3. One (1) meeting in-person in June.

Commitment Required: Ten (10) to 20 hours per month between March and August. Jury members participating in Round 2 judging must be able to meet in-person at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan over the course of a four (4)-day period (dates TBD).

Term: Two (2) years; maximum one (1) term. Term begins January 1.

Staff Contact: Molly Dall'Ert

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA INNOVATION Magazine Article Contributor

Article contributors provide written content and new content ideas for INNOVATION magazine, supporting thought leadership and value-creation through IDSA's publication. Contributors are responsible for authoring and submitting articles or new content ideas based on specific topics, industry experience, or related to the themes of each issue, and for adhering to editorial and ethical standards.

General Responsibilities:

1. Write articles. Produce well-structured, compelling, and grammatically correct content that meets the assigned word count and adheres to the magazine's tone and style.
2. Meet deadlines. Submit articles, drafts, and revisions promptly to ensure the magazine's production schedule stays on track.
3. Collaborate with IDSA editors. Work with editors to refine content, address feedback, and make necessary revisions to meet publication standards.
4. Adhere to guidelines. Follow the magazine's style guide, formatting, and submission requirements, including any policies on originality and citations.

2025 Strategic Responsibilities: *TBD by editor based on issue theme.*

Composition: No maximum.

Qualifications: Strong communication and writing skills.

Meetings: N/a.

Commitment Required: Depends on writer.

Term: N/a.

Staff Contact: INNOVATION Editor

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