



California Architects Board

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Adopted: February 20, 2025

Prepared by:

SOLID Planning Solutions

Department of Consumer Affairs

Table of Contents

Board Members..... 3

About the Board 4

Message from the President 5

Board Mission, Vision, and Values 6

Goal 1: Licensing and Professional Qualifications 7

Goal 2: Regulation and Enforcement..... 8

Goal 3: Communications 9

Goal 4: Collaborative Partnerships with Consumers and Organizations 10

Strategic Planning Process..... 11

Board Members

Ronald A. Jones, President

Robert C. Pearman, Jr., Vice President

Victoria Brash, Secretary

Malcolm "Brett" Gladstone, Public Member

Tian Feng, Architect Member

Mitra Kanaani, Architect Member

Leonard Manoukian, Public Member

Nilza Serrano, Public Member

Fuad Sweiss, Public Member

Charles "Sonny" Ward, Architect Member

Gavin Newsom, Governor

Tomiquia Moss, Secretary, Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

Kimberly Kirchmeyer, Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

Laura Zuniga, Executive Officer, California Architects Board

About the Board

The California Architects Board (CAB or Board) was created through “An Act to Regulate the Practice of Architecture” (ACT) by the Legislature in 1901. Six months after the approval of the Act, it became unlawful to practice architecture or call oneself an architect in the State of California unless certified by the Board.

In 1929, the Board began issuing licenses to individuals who passed both a written and an oral examination. Then, in 1963, the Act was revised making the actual practice of architecture by an unlicensed individual a misdemeanor. This revision made the Act a true practice act, restricting the practice of architecture to only licensed architects. In addition to examining candidates, the Board maintains a wide range of programs to protect consumers and regulate the practice of architecture.

The ten-member Board consists of five architects and five public members. Eight gubernatorial appointees, one Senate Rules Committee appointee, and one Speaker of the Assembly appointee are appointed for a term of four years.

Since 1997, the Board has also overseen the duties, responsibilities, and jurisdiction of the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC). The Board is charged with regulating landscape architects and managing all the affairs of the former Board of Landscape Architects. The LATC is structured as a committee of the Board.

Message from the President

On behalf of the California Architects Board, I am pleased to present our 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. I extend my sincere gratitude to both internal and external stakeholders for your significant contributions to the development of this plan. This Plan reaffirms the Board's commitment to service in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the regulation of the practice of architecture. Over the next three years, our priorities will include public protection, collaboration, innovation, integrity, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will continue working with our licensees to better serve the public, engage the ongoing challenges of climate adaptation, and deepen our understanding of the emerging role of artificial intelligence in architecture.

As Board President, I look forward to collaborating with my fellow Board members and the Board's dedicated staff to implement this Plan. I invite all stakeholders to join in achieving these over the next three years.

Board Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

The Board's mission is to advance and protect the interests of the people of California by the effective administration of the Architects Practice Act.

Vision

The leader in the regulation of architectural practice and consumer protection.

Values

- Collaborative
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Innovative
- Integrity
- Public Protection
- Proactive

Goal 1: Licensing and Professional Qualifications

Ensure practicing architects meet the professional qualifications.

- 1.1 Determine if the California Supplemental Exam (CSE) needs to be modified to ensure relevancy and remove any barriers to licensure.
- 1.2 Evaluate continuing education (CE) requirements and propose statutory and/or regulatory changes, as necessary, to ensure relevancy and expand course options.
- 1.3 Review the licensing process to improve efficiencies, by developing clearer guidelines and improved tools.
- 1.4 Enhance the Connect software system to require CE documentation to be uploaded during the renewal process.
- 1.5 Explore ways to improve the quality of CE providers to increase public protection.

Goal 2: Regulation and Enforcement

Protect California consumers by establishing and enforcing practice standards for architects.

- 2.1 Evaluate the Board's fine structure and update regulations as necessary to increase fines to discourage practice violations.
- 2.2 Determine whether statutory changes are necessary to clarify licensed architects are required to submit plans for local approval and what architects can do to eliminate confusion and protect consumers.
- 2.3 Research and amend regulations as necessary to ensure relevancy with current technologies and practices.
- 2.4 Pursue legislation to update the Business Entity Report Form (BERF) to include more information about the management control of businesses.
- 2.5 Provide additional training to subject matter experts (SMEs), board members, and staff to strengthen enforcement decisions and recommendations.

Goal 3: Communications

Increase public and professional awareness of the Board's mission, activities, and services.

- 3.1 Expand outreach and communications to educate the public regarding the Board's role and resources.
- 3.2 Enhance communication to improve overall engagement with licensees and the public.
- 3.3 Increase collaborative student outreach to shape an inclusive and representative licensee population.
- 3.4 Educate the public and planning departments about when licensed architects are required and what architects can do.

Goal 4: Collaborative Partnerships

Enhance relationships with consumers and related organizations and provide quality customer service.

- 4.1 Increase Board representation at the national level to ensure that California's voice is heard.
- 4.2 Promote board member vacancies to foster a candidate pool that reflects the practice diversity of the profession in California.

Strategic Planning Process

To understand the environment in which the Board operates as well as identify factors that could impact the Board's success in carrying out its regulatory duties, the Department of Consumer Affairs' SOLID Planning Unit (SOLID) conducted an environmental scan of the Board's internal and external environments by collecting information through the following methods:

- SOLID conducted phone interviews or surveys with CAB leadership and board members during May through July of 2024.
- SOLID conducted an online survey for CAB staff during the months of April and May 2024.
- SOLID conducted an online survey for external stakeholders during the months of April and May 2024.

The most significant themes and trends identified from the environmental scan were discussed by board members, board leadership and staff, and members of the public during a strategic planning session facilitated by SOLID on December 6, 2024. This information guided the Board in the development of its strategic objectives outlined in this 2025-2028 strategic plan.

California Architects Board

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Strategic plan adopted on February 20, 2025.

This strategic plan is based on stakeholder information and discussions facilitated by SOLID for the California Architects Board on December 6, 2024. Subsequent amendments may have been made after the adoption of this plan.



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