

STEP IN. STAND OUT.

Volunteer with IIDA to Unlock the Power of Leadership & Professional Growth

Across the IIDA community, more than 700 volunteer members step into leadership every year - supporting their local chapters, strengthening the design profession, and developing skills that go far beyond the workplace. IIDA board service gives design professionals hands-on experience, industry visibility, and a deeper sense of purpose that directly elevates both their careers and the companies they represent.

Top 8 Benefits of IIDA Chapter Leadership

- 1. Strategic Thinking & Vision Planning:** Leaders gain experience looking beyond daily tasks, including setting goals, planning future-focused initiatives, honoring the chapter's legacy, and contributing to long-term industry impact.
- 2. People Leadership & Team Management:** Volunteers learn to lead diverse groups with empathy and confidence, manage committees, mentor peers, delegate effectively, and support individuals with different personalities and strengths.
- 3. Communication & Presentation Skills:** Board service strengthens written and verbal communication, including public speaking and presenting at events, running meetings, crafting clear emails and announcements, and navigating important conversations with maturity.
- 4. Project & Event Management:** From CEUs to signature events, volunteers practice planning, organizing, coordinating logistics, meeting deadlines, and delivering meaningful experiences for the design community.
- 5. Financial & Budget Management:** Leaders develop practical financial skills such as budgeting, understanding income and expenses, managing fundraising, and stewarding sponsor relationships responsibly.
- 6. Relationship Building & Community Networking:** Chapter service expands professional and personal networks - connecting volunteers with peers, firms, partners, and industry leaders across generations and markets.
- 7. Conflict Resolution & Emotional Intelligence:** Volunteering cultivates self-awareness, patience, empathy, active listening, confidence in difficult conversations, and the ability to resolve challenges with professionalism and grace.
- 8. Confidence, Ownership & Professional Presence:** Board members build personal confidence through hands-on leadership. Taking ownership of projects, representing their firms, strengthening their professional brand, and stepping into greater influence.