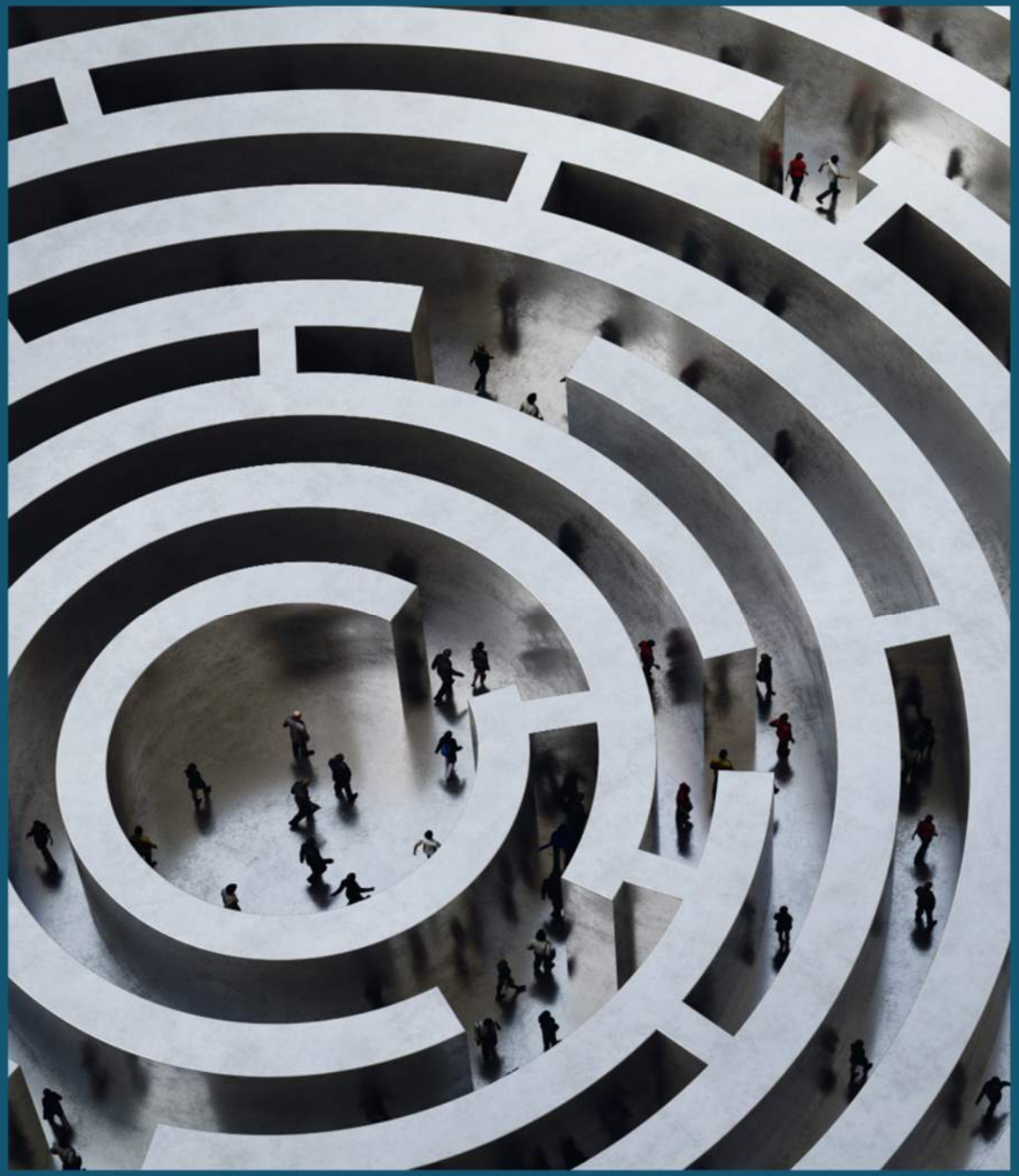


Demystifying the Fellowship Application Process

November 11, 2026
4-5 PM ET

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTS

HEALTHCAREARCHITECTS.ORG

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Getting Started and Categories of Nomination
3. Selecting a Sponsor and Submittal Questions
4. Submission Due Date & Confirmation
5. Jury and Criteria
6. Notification of Elevation
7. Ownership Of Submissions
8. Resubmission
9. What Success looks like…
10. Q & A

Your Presenters



Bryan Langlands; FAIA, FACHA
2026 Awards Board Liaison
2027 President Elect



Bill Hercules; FAIA, FACHA, FACHE
Fellowship Sponsor
2018 ACHA President



Ann H. Adams; FAIA, FACHA
2027 Awards Chairperson
2024 ACHA President

Advice from Recent FACHA Classes



Steve Templet; AIA, FACHA
2024



Deb Smith; AIA, FACHA
2024



Vince Avallone; AIA, FACHA
2024



Marc Roland; AIA, FACHA
2024



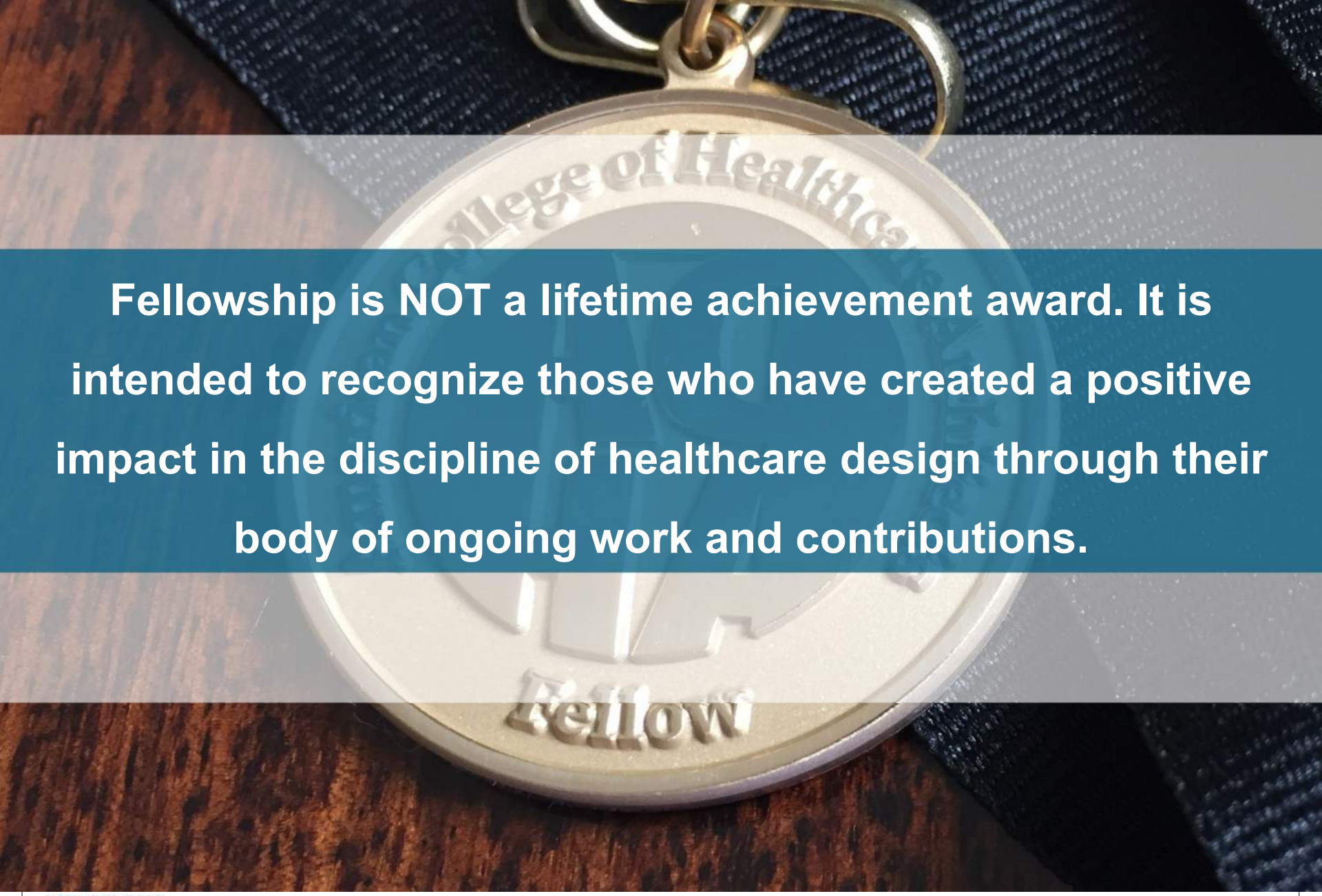
Vincent Della Donna; AIA, FACHA
2026



The Council of Fellows was founded to advance the unique qualities of the profession of healthcare architecture by demonstrating and celebrating achievements of national significance.



ACHA Fellowship is one of the highest personal honors bestowed upon a certificant of the ACHA who has shown distinction in fulfilling one specific Category of Nomination of their work, and has demonstrated individual impact in the practice of healthcare architecture.



Fellowship is NOT a lifetime achievement award. It is intended to recognize those who have created a positive impact in the discipline of healthcare design through their body of ongoing work and contributions.

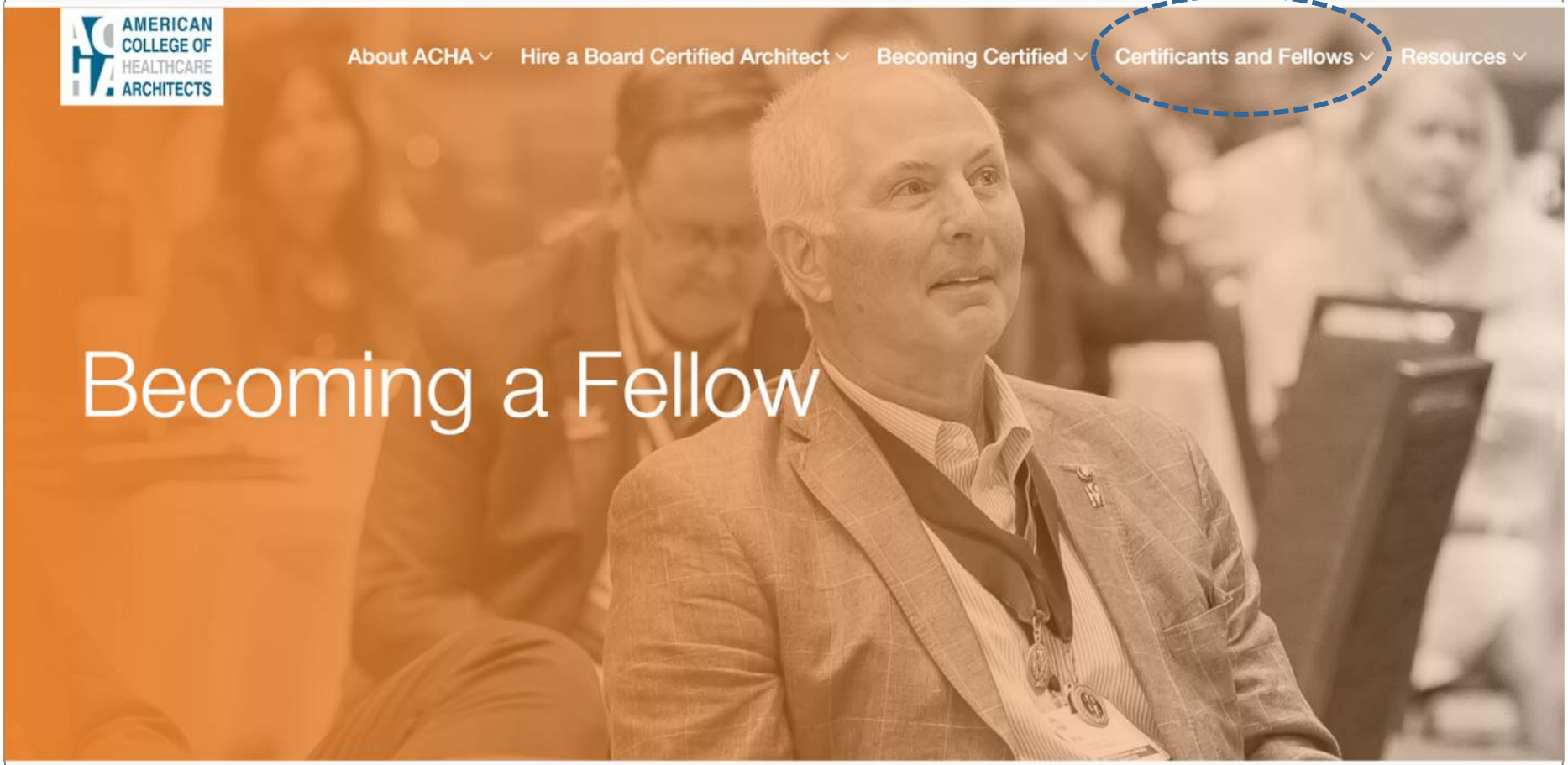


2027 FELLOWSHIP PROCESS

- Call for Submissions: November 5, 2026
- Submission date: February 28, 2027.
- Upload a single PDF file to Certemy.
- Notification of elevation: Week of June 21, 2027.
- Award of Fellowship: SLS in Minneapolis July 24, 2027.

Getting Started

https://healtharchitects.org/becoming-a-fellow/



Nominations Package



For consideration, an ACHA certificant must be certified for a minimum of 5 years from the submission deadline, and have been a licensed architect for a minimum of 10 years from the submission deadline. An ACHA Fellow is entitled to use "FACHA" after their name.

Applications are filed through the ACHA Certemy site. All details and submittal requirements are available in the Nomination Package.

Click here for FAQs.

Click here for the current list of ACHA Fellows.

Qualifications

ACHA Certified for a minimum of 5 years as of February 28, 2027

Licensed Architect for a minimum of 10 years as of February 28, 2027

Show distinction in fulfilling one specific Category of Nomination over career

Developing a Succinct Theme



If I was formulating a hypothesis (i.e. theory or premise) about my body of work, what would it be?

What is a consistent succinct theme as to why I am selected to participate on a healthcare team?

What unique healthcare problem(s) was I hired to solve?

Can you define who/how/where you have had impact or influence?

Data, information, publications, statistics

Categories of Nomination

Category One

Advanced the Art and Craft of healthcare planning and design through either:

1 A:

Superior evidence of planning and design achievements.

OR

1 B:

Superior evidence of contributions to the practice of healthcare architecture.

Category Two

Progressed healthcare environments through public service.

Categories of Nomination

CATEGORY 1 A

Superior evidence of planning and design achievements.

Fellowship in this category is granted to those who have produced distinguished bodies of work through the practice of healthcare architecture that blends the elegance of design with superior, innovative, or highly efficient medical planning.

Categories of Nomination

CATEGORY 1 B.

Superior evidence of contributions to the practice of healthcare architecture.

Fellowship in this category is granted to those who have made notable contributions through their work in a minimum of one area of expertise:

- **1 B.1** The research of healthcare architecture through either formal or informal investigation that has progressed the standards, specifications, building codes, materials, applications, or inventions for the field;
- **1 B.2** The education of healthcare architects through either formal education or mentoring that has demonstrated inspiration to others in the profession and for the field;
- **1 B.3** The literature of healthcare architecture through either writing or speaking that has been widely recognized to have a lasting impact for the field.

Categories of Nomination

CATEGORY TWO

Progressed healthcare environments through public service.

Fellowship in this category is granted to those who have clearly raised the standards of professional performance through leadership in the development of civic improvements, needed governmental projects, or industry organizations by advancing the professional healthcare affairs in their field.

- Leadership in service to the profession and discipline of healthcare architecture
- Impact as a healthcare architect within a healthcare organization
- Impact as a healthcare architect within a governmental or regulatory organization

Selecting a Sponsor

Nominees need a sponsor, who is an ACHA Fellow. They cannot be a current juror. Your sponsor's role is:

- Assist the nominee in developing a **succinct theme**
- Ensure theme and exhibits support the Category
- Write a one-page **letter** on behalf of the nominee
- Submissions without a sponsor letter will be **disqualified**
- **Contact references** and ensure appropriate letters

https://healtharchitects.org/becoming-a-fellow/

Submission Questions

If you have questions, the first source of answers should be your **Sponsor**.

Questions unanswerable by your sponsor can be emailed to the **ACHA Executive Director**, who may address them directly, or defer to the Board Liaison or clarification.

Submission Due Date

Submissions are due **on-line** no later than **5 PM CST**:

February 28, 2027

We strongly urge submissions be uploaded well **in advance**.

Submission Confirmation

All submissions will be uploaded electronically through **Certemy**.

2027 Application

- In Certemy, each step is a red, yellow, or green light system, similar to recertification.
- All materials must be received by February 28, 2027 before 5:00 PM CT. All deadlines will be strictly observed.
- $100 application fee (non-refundable).



Recent Changes

2027 Application

- ACHA will align with the AIA format and NOT require actual signatures for “proof of role” on exhibits.



Reference Letters

Letters should be transmitted directly to the nominee's sponsor.

5 letters required for first year applicant:

- At least one ACHA Fellow in good standing.
- At least one ACHA Certificant in good standing.
- No restrictions on the selection of remaining references.
- Demonstrate a broad range of support influence.
- ACHA/FACHA Officers and Regents are permitted to write reference letters.



2027 FACHA Jury



TBD, FACHA

Ann H. Adams; FAIA, FACHA
2027 Jury Chairperson

TBD, FACHA

TBD, FACHA

TBD, FACHA

TBD, FACHA

Jury announced no later than December 31, 2026

Evaluation Criteria

- Distinction within the **Category of Nomination**
- The jury shall interpret the qualities of excellence, influence, impact, and quality of presentation for the Category of Nomination.
- Maintain **consistency** of evaluation qualities as applied through the history of this award program.
- The **jury will not add any criteria** to the evaluation process.

Evaluation Criteria

- The work of the jury is inherently **subjective** in part and necessarily requires interpretation, while maintaining consistency with past judgements and outcomes.
- The jury will focus their attention on the **submission alone**, which shall demonstrate the individual impact through a balanced presentation of achievements, exhibits, and references.
- Successful nominees must receive at least **60% jury affirmation**.

Deliberation Record

- The Board liaison will compile a **summary** of Jury's recommendations.

- **Nominees, sponsors, and other interested parties** are expressly instructed to **not approach the jury to discuss the deliberations of their submissions**.

Notification

- Once a jury reaches their recommendation, the **Board of Regents** formally approves and confers Fellowship.
- Upon Board approval, the ACHA president will communicate to **successful** nominees by phone and letter, and to **unsuccessful** nominees by general letter.
- All correspondence shall be also copied to the nominee's FACHA **sponsor**.
- All **communications** will happen simultaneously.
- The timing of such notifications will be the week of **June 21, 2027**

Ownership of Submissions

Upon submission, **all packages** become the property of the American College of Healthcare Architects for use, as it deems appropriate.

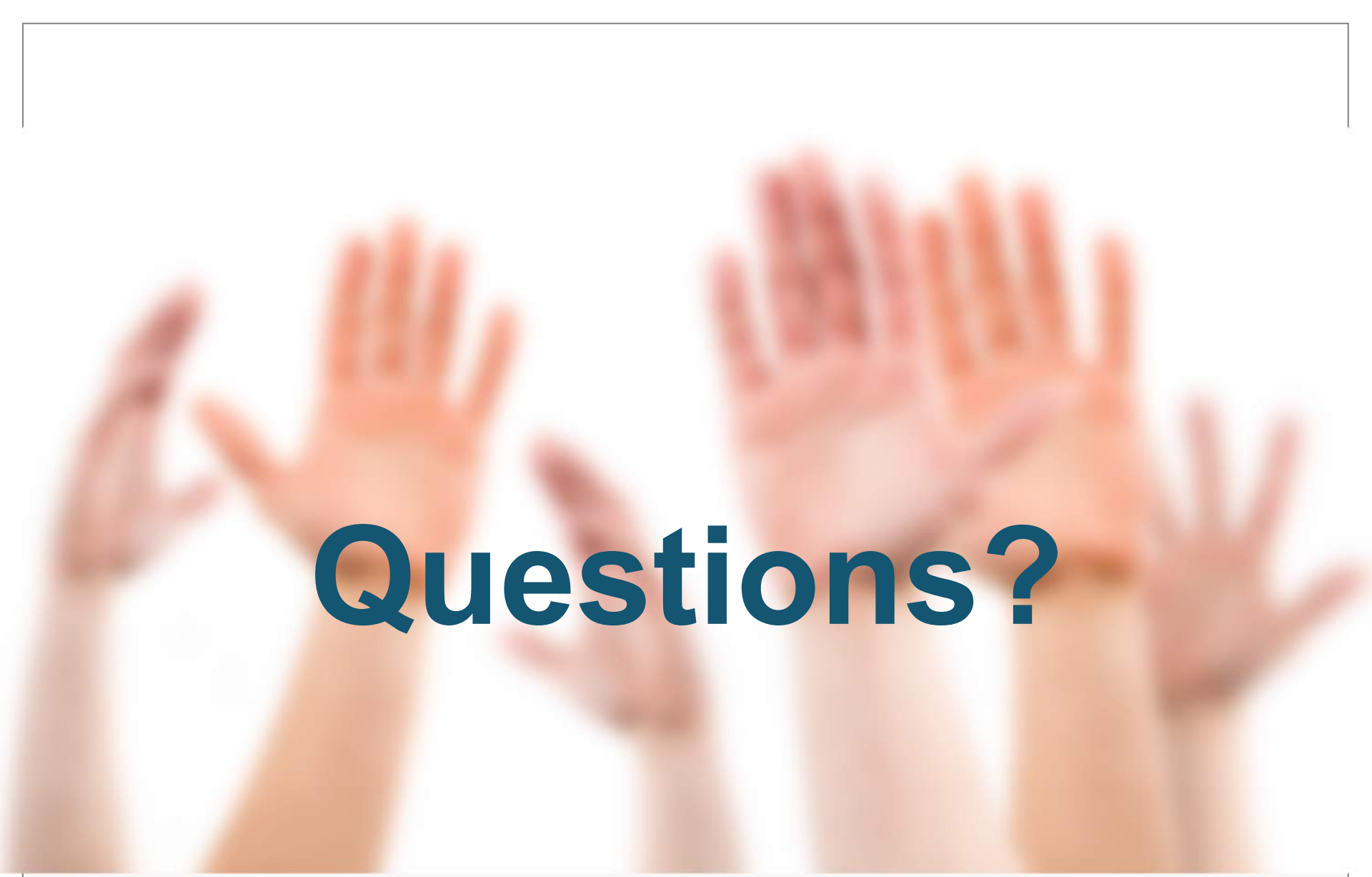
As such, the contents of the submissions must be free from any **copyright** restrictions.

Resubmission

- **Previous nominees** may re-submit another package.
- If a nominee is denied advancement after **three consecutive award cycles, that nominee must wait two additional award cycles prior to resubmission**, and will be considered as a first-year submission.

Success looks like…

- Look at **successful** candidates **application** on ACHA website
- Be **clear** about your Fellowship **category** of nomination and frame your response accordingly
- Structure application in **exact order** of the application and answer the questions that are asked;
- Common to all categories is about **INFLUENCE/IMPACT** = Credentialed is not the pathway to fellowship! Must exhibit Influence/Impact


Questions?