

## COMMITMENT TO OUR PROFESSION

Aandra Currie Shearer, NCIDQ No. 17159, CIDQ President

A few years into my first design job, I registered to write the NCIDQ Exams. As with most candidates, I was terrified — worried that I didn't know the material, that I had been out of "studying shape" for too long. I hit the books, and several weeks later I sat for the exams.

[Discover the value of certification](#)



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thom Banks, Chief Executive Officer

As we begin 2021, much remains unsettled and uncertain, but there is hope and a path forward. I am grateful to CIDQ's leadership, staff, volunteers, candidates, and partners who exhibited tremendous flexibility, patience, and grace as we all navigated an incredibly tumultuous year together.

[Learn about our renewed strategic focus](#)

## NCIDQ EXAM UPDATES

### Fall 2020 Statistics

With the release of the official fall 2020 score results, CIDQ announced the addition of 872 new NCIDQ certificate holders! **REMEMBER** to proudly use the NCIDQ appellation that you worked so hard to achieve!

**Total New NCIDQ Certificates 2020: 872**

### 2020 Comparative Overall Exam Pass Rates:

IDFX: 69% | IDPX: 64% | PRAC: 73%



Conveying the impact of interior design on public health, safety, and welfare, as well as the value of NCIDQ certification, CIDQ shares the fourth video from our collaborative series with the [American Society of Interior Designers \(ASID\)](#) and the [International Interior Design Association \(IIDA\)](#): [Eliminating Marketplace Barriers](#).

Interior Design  
**ELIMINATING  
MARKETPLACE BARRIERS**

Brought to you by



## MEET CIDQ'S NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

### President-Elect

#### Scott MacMeekin

Scott is a Senior Designer and workplace design lead for the Charlotte, North Carolina based BB+M Architecture. With nearly 20 years of commercial design experience, Scott has built a portfolio of award-winning design work and grown the interior design practice for both regional and nationally recognized design firms. His work and thought leadership have led to numerous publications, speaking engagements, and competition jury selections. He is a strong advocate for the design industry and an active mentor to young designers. A native Virginian, Scott received his Interior Design degree from Virginia Tech and embraced the University motto 'That I May Serve' while dedicating himself to the industry.



### Director

#### Erin Jennings

Erin is an Associate Partner with krM Architecture, a design studio committed to craft and quality with a concentration on progressively transforming communities. Based in Indianapolis, Erin continues to develop a strong love for the heart of the Midwest. She attended Ball State University, where she graduated with a double major in both architecture and interior design. After her time at BSU, she traveled to Buffalo, New York for two years to complete her Master of Architecture from The State University of New York at Buffalo.



### Director

#### Kia Weatherspoon

Kia is the founder and President of Determined by Design, a minority and veteran-owned business located in Washington, DC. Providing full-service interior design, Kia's firm has brought Design Equity™ to multifamily affordable and supportive housing properties, and small businesses located in economically challenged and emerging communities since 2012. Her firm's practice focuses on making interior design a standard for all and not a luxury for a few. A native of Portsmouth, VA, Kia attended Corcoran College of Art & Design, where she earned her MFA in interior design. She also

holds a BFA in interior design from Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia.



### Returning Public Member

#### David Minacci

David is a partner in the law firm of Manausa, Shaw & Minacci, P.A. and has served as the prosecuting attorney for the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior since November, 2002. In this capacity, Mr. Minacci has prosecuted hundreds of cases involving both licensed interior designers who violate the practice act and those individuals that engage in the practice of interior design without a license. His services have been critical in showing the importance of regulation and that such regulations protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Florida.

### CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020 RECAP

On November 12th, more than 100 state and provincial board members, interior design professional and educational organization representatives, credentialing organization representatives, invited guests, and staff met virtually for the CIDQ Annual Conference.

Professor in the School of Architecture, Director of the Minnesota Design Center, and former Dean of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, **Tom Fisher**, offered a thought-provoking keynote address on post-pandemic interior design opportunities. If you missed this relevant presentation or would simply like to revisit it, it's now available for you to [view](#).

CIDQ was pleased to recognize **David Hanson** as the 2020 Louis S. Tregre Award winner. This award, established in 1991 to honor one of CIDQ's founders, recognizes individuals who have made significant and ongoing contributions to both the organization and the profession on a grassroots level. Congratulations, David!

Ideas were exchanged, strategies shared and learned, and an abundance of collaborating amongst peers. We're looking forward to an even more impactful event in 2021.

### SAVE-THE-DATE!

CIDQ Annual Conference  
November 12 & 13, 2021  
Minneapolis, MN





**Aandra Currie  
Shearer**

**CIDQ President**

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 17159

### President's Message

A few years into my first design job, I registered to write the NCIDQ Exams. As with most candidates, I was terrified — worried that I didn't know the material, that I had been out of “studying shape” for too long. I hit the books, and several weeks later I sat for the exams. The following July when I received my results in the mail, I was over the moon; earning my NCIDQ Certificate has always been a point of pride in my journey, both professionally and personally.

That was exactly 20 years ago. After working in architecture and interior design offices, and now my own office as a sole practitioner, one constant has been a commitment to our profession through volunteering. How deeply honored I am today to be serving as the President of CIDQ for 2021. While 2020 was a difficult year for so many reasons, out of the flames are rising many learnings to carry us forward. We have had to cope with uncertainty, be very patient, and appreciate others through our forced closeness or separation. Many of us have started to recognize our unconscious biases and positions of power, and to take these into consideration as we find new and better ways to move forward professionally and personally. One of the greatest realizations I've had is appreciating belonging to a group or network — for this is where we solve our common problems, where we lift each other up, and where we gain much from our shared experience. This is the intrinsic value of being an NCIDQ certificate holder.

CIDQ is supported by a sizeable roster of dedicated volunteers, without whom there would be no organization. At this time, the CIDQ Board is saying goodbye to three exemplary members: Sandy Gordon, AnnMarie Jackson, and Past-President Jim Klawiter. Thanks to each one of you for your valuable contributions over the past two-plus years. As fellow serial volunteers, we undoubtedly will meet again soon! As we bid adieu to Sandy, AnnMarie and Jim, we welcome Directors Erin Jennings and Kia Weatherspoon, along with Scott MacMeekin who is returning to the Board in the role of President-Elect, and David Minacci who will serve a second term as our Public Member. Supported by the incredible leadership and staff at CIDQ, the Board will continue to advance the initiatives in the strategic plan while navigating the uncertainties of these times. May 2021 bring all of us together again, in the old familiar ways, and in new ways too.



**Thom Banks**  
CIDQ Chief  
Executive Officer

### CEO's Message

Happy New Year, everyone! As we begin 2021, much remains unsettled and uncertain, but there is hope and a path forward. I am grateful to CIDQ's leadership, staff, volunteers, candidates, and partners who exhibited tremendous flexibility, patience, and grace as we all navigated an incredibly tumultuous year together. Reduced to just one exam administration this year because of COVID, I am particularly pleased to welcome the 872 candidates who persevered and earned their NCIDQ Certificate this fall in what was CIDQ's largest single exam administration ever.

This spring, CIDQ will rollout updated examinations that reflect the findings of our most recent Practice Analysis. We have replaced the "Q codes" used on our Practicum exam with the more widely recognized and understood International Building Code (IBC). CIDQ has also reviewed our relationships with our various exam partners and made adjustments that will position CIDQ well for the future and the continued evolution of the NCIDQ Exam as the recognized standard for professional competency in the practice of interior design.

I am truly excited for the year ahead and energized about our work at CIDQ. The headquarters team is moving towards implementation of a [three-year strategic plan](#), approved last year by CIDQ's Board of Directors. CIDQ will adopt a renewed strategic focus on creating additional value for, and engagement with, our various stakeholder groups AND expanding our capacity to advocate both for the NCIDQ Exam and the "reasonable regulation" of professions protecting public health, safety, and welfare. CIDQ has dedicated additional resources to both these initiatives and I look forward to providing you updates on our progress.

Wishing you all good health and prosperity in 2021!

### CIDQ Strategic Plan 2021–2023

<p><b>Mission</b> <b>WHAT WE DO</b></p> <p>CIDQ is the North American leader in measuring the competency of interior design practitioners to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.</p>		<p><b>Vision</b> <b>OUR IMPACT</b></p> <p>NCIDQ Certification is the global standard sought by the public to demonstrate interior designers' competency to practice in code-based environments.</p>	
<b>STRATEGIC DRIVERS</b>			
<p><b>NCIDQ Exam</b></p> <p>Evolve content and access while maintaining best practices</p>	<p><b>Value</b></p> <p>Identify and deliver value to engage and support CIDQ stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>Promote the NCIDQ Exam as the singular standard for measuring interior design competency</p>	<p><b>Organizational Strength</b></p> <p>Maintain and enhance organizational sustainability</p>
<b>INITIATIVES</b>	<b>INITIATIVES</b>	<b>INITIATIVES</b>	<b>INITIATIVES</b>
<p><b>1.1</b> Determine practice exam strategy within the competitive landscape</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Enhance exam resiliency (including vendor, administrative, delivery, security, and technology considerations)</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Streamline communications with candidates as well as certificate holders (e.g., website interface, social media, mobile, app, etc.)</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Certificate holders</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Exam candidates (interior design and architecture by education)</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Students and educators</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Member boards</p> <p><b>2.5</b> Regulated jurisdictions (non-member boards)</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Continue to provide information and resources about the NCIDQ Exam</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Promote health, safety, and welfare and code content on exam</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Collaborate with allied groups including professional, credentialing, and educational organizations and institutions</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Establish CIDQ as an advocate for reasonable regulation and support of its defined practice of interior design</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Size staff as needed to support initiatives</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Identify avenues to increase exam revenue, certificate renewals, and membership</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Identify, prioritize and implement “stop buckets”</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Strengthen the pipeline to engage volunteer and staff leaders</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Engage with other credentialing organizations, including ICOR, in support of shared mission</p> <p><b>4.6</b> Establish clear financial reserve policies with annual review of strategy and vehicles</p>