



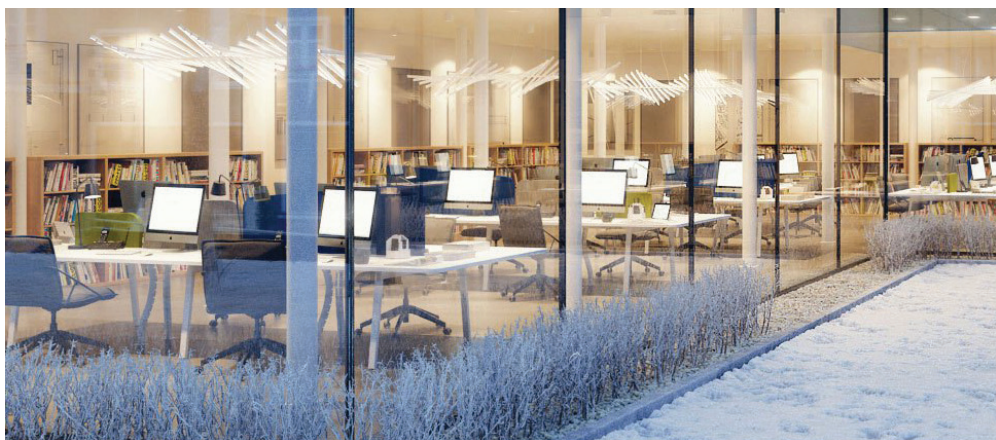
**Paula Lutz**  
**CIDQ President**  
NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 07311

## President's Message

As the 2018 President for the Council for Interior Design Qualification, I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to help build upon CIDQ's success with the NCIDQ Examination and Certification. Since its inception in 1974, the organization has grown exponentially. Today we stand with over 31,500 NCIDQ Certificate Holders, and over 6,000 more eligible candidates already engaged in the certification pipeline. CIDQ proud to work closely with the staff and delegates from 26 North American state and provincial boards, to ensure competency in regulated and licensed interior design professionals.

We close 2017 with 1,147 new NCIDQ Certificate Holders joining our ranks. The new Practicum successfully deployed in a computerized format, new practice quiz offerings are under development, and working partnerships with allied organizations are continuing. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the continued service of our valued member board leaders and our many volunteers for their dedication to making CIDQ and the NCIDQ Certification a success. I know you will join me in thanking our immediate past president Kari Frontera for her leadership in 2017, and outgoing board members David Hanson and Michael Dudek for their years of dedicated service.

As a practicing interior designer for 30 years, I have found great value in not only being NCIDQ Certified, but in my involvement with the organization as well. Working with a diverse group of individuals, who all share the desire to continuously improve and elevate our profession, has been what continues to draw me back to CIDQ. And I have found the commitment of my time and energy to be assets well used and truly worthwhile. I have always appreciated the organization's welcoming and engaging environment; the opportunity for continued professional development; networking and social opportunities; and its overall commitment to the interior design community and profession.





**Paula Lutz**  
**CIDQ President**  
NCIDQ Certificate  
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## President's Message Continued

I hope that you share these sentiments and that you take full advantage of the value of the NCIDQ Certificate, whether you are a certificate holder, member board, educator, employer, or consumer. If you are interested in learning more, I invite you to visit our website [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) to learn more about CIDQ and the NCIDQ Examination in 2018. And be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter. In addition to the CIDQ staff, members of our Board of Directors and NCIDQ Ambassadors are always available for your questions or feedback.

Let's make 2018 another great year for the NCIDQ Exam and the practice of professional interior design!



**Paula Lutz**

## PAULA LUTZ

A Studio Leader at Whitney, Paula's design background is in residential, commercial, streetscape, and historic preservation. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Paula has served in many volunteer positions within CIDQ since 2000 and was the recipient of the Louis S. Tregre Award in 2013.

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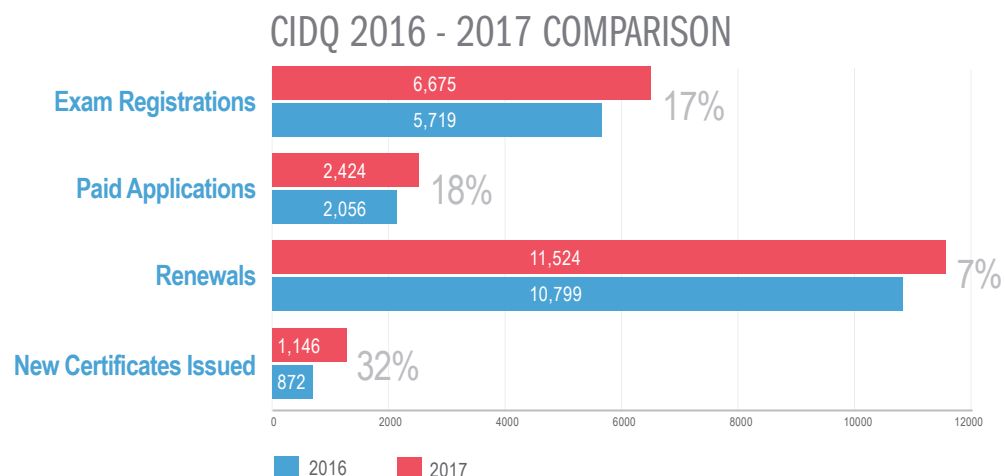
# 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

CIDQ continued its positive momentum throughout 2017. With an end of year total of 31,605 NCIDQ Certified Interior Designers, and a record 11,524 Active Status Certificate Holders who continue to support CIDQ on an annual basis. These numbers were achieved through the dedicated efforts of the entire CIDQ community.

Exam registrations increased again, coming in at a rate of 17% over 2016's numbers, along with an 18% increase in applications. Following 2016's already strong numbers, in 2017 CIDQ saw a 32% increase in new NCIDQ Certificate Holders.

The work of transitioning the pencil and paper Practicum to a computerized exam was successfully accomplished, and in October 2017, the new Practicum was administered to nearly 800 individuals. While ensuring the same depth of content and exam rigor from the original exam, digitizing the Practicum allows for better alignment with the typical work experience of interior designers today. Another benefit to its computerization is the Practicum is now widely available at Prometric Test Centers across North America on the same April and October timeframe as the IDFX and IDPX exam sections.

To provide the best possible access to information about the profession of interior design and the NCIDQ Examination and Certification process, CIDQ launched a redesigned website [www.cidq.org](http://www.cidq.org) at the start of 2017. New webpages were added, dedicated to Educators and Students, who are the providers of prospects and candidates to fill the NCIDQ Exam Candidate pipeline, along with resources to best engage emerging professionals at the start of their careers. Two new searchable databases were also added to the website, [Find an NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer](#), which allows users to locate all Active Status NCIDQ Certificate Holders, and [NCIDQ Pass Rates \(CIDA Programs\)](#), which provides NCIDQ pass rates by CIDA program, exam section, and year.





# CIDQ... A LOOK AHEAD

**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## Happy 2018 everyone!

You can't move forward effectively without knowing where you've been. Our 2017 accomplishments are addressed elsewhere in this issue so I won't repeat those. However, I think we can all celebrate a very strong 2017 and the continued recognition of the NCIDQ Exam as a critical component of the jurisdictional certification/registration/licensure process, as well as a broader benchmark of competency for consumers of interior design services in unregulated jurisdictions.

Looking ahead, we want to continue to build upon our success for 2018. Not only by increasing the number of exam takers and certificate holders but by increasing value for our member boards. I have spoken with many of you about your desire for expanded record access to streamline the jurisdictional certification/registration/licensure process for candidates. CIDQ is hard at work with our technology vendors developing a tool to efficiently share records, which we anticipate delivering by the end of this year.





**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## Happy 2018 everyone! Continued

CIDQ is also expanding our item (question) writing capacity for 2018, by doubling the volunteer subject matter expert (SME) engagement dedicated to these efforts. In addition to increasing the options within our item bank, this work will enable us to refresh our practice exam offerings, including a more comprehensive practice exam for the new Practicum to help candidates better familiarize themselves with the content areas and format. Look for these new practice exams in the first quarter of this year.

Lastly, while CIDQ board, staff and NCIDQ Ambassadors maintain a busy schedule of presentations and information sharing to prospective candidates about the NCIDQ Exam and its value, we are excited to partner more closely with our member board delegates and staff to present the latest information about the exam to your member boards. If you are interested in having CIDQ come and speak with your board this year, please email me at [tbanks@cidq.org](mailto:tbanks@cidq.org) to discuss scheduling.

Best wishes for a terrific 2018!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thom".

**Thom Banks**



**Penny Burton,**  
**2017 Chair of Practicum**  
**Review Committee**

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 22816

## CIDQ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Why did you get involved with CIDQ and volunteer to be on the Practicum Review Committee and what was your role in developing the computerized Practicum Exam?

I have been volunteering with CIDQ for about 10 years now and have progressed with the exam over the years. My passion for validating the Interior Design field really played heavily in my decision to get involved. I have been everything from a pre-tester, to a grader, to exam developer, so the transition to the Practicum Review Committee was the next logical step. I helped with some of the original storyboarding for the new computerized exam and actually wrote several of the items on the current exam.

Why did you decide to become an interior designer?

I have always had a passion for architecture, but wasn't interested in designing the exterior of buildings. I love the creative, playful side of design.

What interior design field do you work in?

Currently Commercial/Corporate office, but I have experience in high-end residential, model homes, retail, and senior living as well.

What is your favorite part of being an interior designer and what is your favorite professional project you have worked on?

I love when it all comes together in the end and knowing that you have improved the lives of the end user by what you do. My favorite project that I have worked on was a 120 bed skilled nursing facility in Florida.



**Penny Burton,**  
**2017 Chair of Practicum**  
**Review Committee**

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 22816

## CIDQ VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Continued

Why did you decide to pursue NCIDQ Certification and how has achieving it benefited you either personally or professionally?

I was about 3 years out of school when I decided to take the exam. I wanted to be competitive in my field and continue to open future opportunities for growth. I have been offered and accepted several higher level positions because of my certification and involvement with CIDQ.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about taking the NCIDQ Exam?

Do it as soon as you are eligible. Take your time preparing by researching the CIDQ website on what areas to study. Find a co-worker or a fellow previous classmate to help provide motivation and support while preparing. You can do it!

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CIDQ is always on the look out for volunteers to help create and refine our examinations. If you are interested in getting involved, check out our volunteer page [www.cidq.org/volunteer](http://www.cidq.org/volunteer).

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## 2017 CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CIDQ's Assembly of Delegates from across the United States and Canada came together in November for the 2017 CIDQ Annual Conference in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, home to CIDQ's office headquarters. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss issues related to their shared experiences, and successes and challenges facing each jurisdiction.

Attendees were able to hear from four keynote speakers who made presentations throughout the two day conference. Todd Heiser, the 2016 Contract Magazine Designer of the Year, spoke on "The Impact of Design" and where the industry may be heading in the next few years.

Katherine Setser presented her research on the life safety and financial impact of fire damage and the improper use of interior design. Many attendees attended a follow-up roundtable discussion with Ms. Setser to learn more about her research and to receive follow up information when her study is completed and published.

Dale Atkinson, CEO of FARB (Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards), presented an enlightening discussion about the impact of the current regulatory climate and its effect upon the interior design industry.

Keynote speaker and Utah State Senator Luz Escamilla spoke about her successful efforts as a legislator in spearheading the passage of a bill recognizing commercial interior design as a licensed profession in Utah.



**Luz Escamilla**  
Utah State Senator







## SAVE THE DATE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

The conference will be held at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. Located in close proximity to all that Nashville has to offer, from the Country Music Hall of Fame, to honky tonks, to the prestigious Vanderbilt University, this is one conference you won't want to miss! Detailed information and registration will be available in late July.

## 2018 CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup>  
NASHVILLE TENNESSEE



CIDQ President Paula Lutz and CIDQ Executive Director Thom Banks at the IIDA COOL party during NeoCon.

## SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT NCIDQ CERTIFICATION

The staff and Board of Directors of CIDQ traveled far and wide to stay abreast of industry relevant updates to the interior design industry and regulatory challenges. CIDQ leaders also connected with interior design students at schools such as Weber State University and the University of Oklahoma to impart information about the importance of NCIDQ Certification and the benefits of students being able to take the IDFX Only.



CIDQ Executive Director Thom Banks cutting the ribbon at the New York 11+ Student Exhibition event in April.



CIDQ Exam Manager Lori Barker-Cummings on the panel at the Maryland Interior Design Roundtable in Baltimore.



Pictured clockwise, CIDQ Executive Director Thom Banks, ASID's Charrisse Johnston, Susan Wiggins, and Randy Fiser at the ASID Student Summit in Norman, Oklahoma.



## CIDQ'S MEMBER BOARD SERVICES

In addition to the lists of new certificate holders provided bi-annually, following each NCIDQ administration, CIDQ supports its Member Boards by offering the following services:

- CIDQ reminds all new NCIDQ Certificate Holders to check with their local jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all local regulations regarding the practice of interior design. This message is reiterated in the congratulatory letter included with printed certificates, email blasts, and on the CIDQ website.
- CIDQ offers a simple verification process for Member Boards to quickly check the status of NCIDQ Certificate holders by visiting the [Verify NCIDQ Certification](#) page on CIDQ's website.
- CIDQ provides a [searchable database](#) of all active NCIDQ Certificate holders which is available online.
- CIDQ assists Member Boards who reach out to CIDQ directly if assistance is needed in verifying an NCIDQ Certificate. CIDQ is in the process of developing a means to make available, on demand, the education transcripts and work experience forms provided by NCIDQ Certificate holders during their NCIDQ application process.
- CIDQ supports licensure/registration/certification efforts in a Member Board's jurisdiction in the form of testimony and documentation such as advocacy letters or relevant statistics, as needed.
- CIDQ makes available an [Alternative Review Process \(ARP\)](#) to Member Boards to evaluate those who have the same competencies as measured by traditional routes, but do not possess the minimum educational requirement for interior design registration.

CIDQ is always open to finding new services and benefits to provide to its member boards. Please feel free to open a dialogue on any areas where CIDQ could be of additional assistance to your board.

## CIDQ'S 2018 BOARD BUDDIES

Each January, CIDQ matches each Member Board's Delegate with one of CIDQ's Board of Directors in what has been called "Board Buddies." During the year, board members make contact with each of their delegates to share information, talk about the business of the Member Board, and to keep in touch ensuring every voice is heard.

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BOARD MEMBER	STATE /PR	DELEGATE	STATE /PR	DELEGATE	STATE /PR	DELEGATE	STATE /PR	DELEGATE
Aandra Currie Shearer	BC	Tamara Jones	AB	Melinda Richardson	SK	Nicole Tiessen	NB	Rene Claude Roy
Amy Coombs	MD	Robyn Dubick	NY	Lovejoy Duryea	ME	Lori LaRochelle		
Caren Martin	MN	Darcy Hield	MB	Erika Sammons	ON	Jennifer McBride		
Emory Johnson	AL	Jeannie Krumdieck	MS	Beth Miller	LA	Carolyn Sawyer	FL	Holly Dennis
Jim Klawiter	NV	Ann Fleming	NM	Margaret Favour	NS	Keri Koch		
Kari Frontera	DC	Sharon Borton	VA	Cameron Stiles	NJ	Diane Gote		
Paula Lutz	KY	Stephanie McCrery	TN	Susan Ballard	QC	Marie-Claude Parenteau-Lebeuf		
Scott MacMeekin	OK	J. Mark Taylor	TX	Sonya Odell	AR	Suzanne Laffoon		