

**Amy M. Baker AIA, LEED AP, CSI, CDT, SCIP
Write-In Candidate - Treasurer**



Year Joined CSI: 2012

Home Chapter: Metropolitan Detroit

Firm: Amy Baker Architect

Occupation/Position: Architect/Specifier

Email: amy@amybakerarchitect.com

Education: Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Lawrence Technological University, 2003
Master of Architecture, Lawrence Technological University, 2006

Professional Registrations,
Licenses, Certifications: State of Michigan - Registered Architect, 2007
Canada Green Building Council - LEED AP, 2009
CSI – Construction Documents Technologist (CDT), 2012

1. CSI values different perspectives and life experiences to better serve members and the AECO community and to be an innovative leading organization. Please describe a time when you or someone else felt uncomfortable in a group and how you built relationships in that situation.

The honest answer is that I'm often uncomfortable stepping into new things. As I've gained more experience, I have realized that my way of dealing with discomfort is to do research and collect feedback before devising and executing a plan. As an example, when I was promoted into a newly-created department manager role at 27 years old, I was one of the youngest in the room and knew that several architects in the department were understandably unsure about the change. I worked on building trust and tried to listen to what they needed rather than pushing through with assumptions. A manager, supervisor, or leader should regularly ask, "What do you need to be successful?" and be ready to advocate for it while supporting the mission of the company or organization.

That process of gathering perspectives helped me understand the needs from multiple angles, and people saw that I wasn't trying to impose a solution; I was trying to build one with them. I've used the same approach stepping into many other new roles, such as leading project teams in developing contract documents, starting my own firm, and joining other professional boards.

Today, I'm comfortable sitting in that initial uncertainty because it pushes me to seek understanding, invite diverse viewpoints, and work toward consensus. On the CSI Board, my approach would be the same: listen, learn, and build relationships that allow us to serve members and the AECO community with clarity of mission and shared outcomes.

2. Based on this understanding of the Board Governing Policies and the position description, please describe your understanding of the role of a member of the Board of Directors and the specific ways you might contribute or make an impact.

A board member's role is to advance CSI's mission on behalf of the membership by setting direction, defining the outcomes the organization is responsible for, and ensuring the CEO delivers those outcomes. CSI's current mission is "to advance building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance." More specifically, CSI does this through the development and delivery of industry standards and through the education of professionals to improve project delivery. The board's job is to stay aligned with that purpose while safeguarding the organization's long-term health.

My contribution would focus on keeping discussions grounded in mission and member value. My natural approach to leadership lends itself well to this. I ask a lot of questions before moving toward consensus, and those questions tend to surface the things boards should be discussing: member feedback, risks and rewards, alignment with mission, and whether a proposed action supports the outcomes we're responsible for. That process helps me navigate uncertainty, but it also helps a board stay disciplined and intentional.

3. Please review the position description. Of the competencies listed in the position description, which would a colleague or friend indicate align with your greatest strengths and why?

I believe colleagues would say that accountability is one of my strongest traits. I place a lot of importance on setting clear expectations about what "success" looks like. Leaders often fall short in this area, but taking the time up front to define outcomes - and getting feedback from the people responsible for executing them - prevents friction later and creates a shared understanding of purpose.

In my role as the current Treasurer of the Air Barrier Association of America, I've made a deliberate effort to understand the reasons behind expenses, how contracts are structured, and how financial decisions support the organization's goals. Colleagues see this as an extension of that same accountability. A Treasurer's responsibility is to oversee the organization's assets and ask the questions that confirm whether annual budgets are realistic and if cashflows align with them.

4. Having read the Board Governing Policies, specifically the Ends/Priority results in Section 1 (page 5), please describe some possibilities you imagine for the future of CSI if we were to be successful. In other words, what does success look like to you?

The success of CSI will continue to be grounded in developing industry standards and in educating practicing AECO professionals and the next generation in how to achieve successful project delivery outcomes. I want to ensure that the standards are protected, relevant, and widely adopted, and I do not believe that creating obstacles for access or use serves that goal or CSI's mission.

To me, success isn't something I can define alone. I'm one voice among thousands who all want the organization to remain relevant and impactful. I would like to see a stronger emphasis on gathering feedback from regions and chapters on what members value most. What problems would they like CSI to solve related to project delivery, software, or standards? What keeps them engaged in meetings and events? How can the national board amplify what members already find useful?

If the national board focuses on bringing clear value to its members while staying aligned with CSI's mission, then CSI can remain the relevant and trusted industry resource it seeks to be.

5. Is there anything you think speaks to your leadership that is not addressed in the previous questions that you believe the Nominating Committee should know?

This write-in campaign obviously did not go through the Nominating Committee, but I think it's worth noting that in a very short amount of time my voice has been heard. Even though it wasn't my original intention to run for a seat on the national board, the thoughts and questions I've raised about governance, transparency, and member value have resonated with many members.

That response speaks to my leadership more than anything else. When I see that something isn't aligned, I ask questions, articulate concerns, and invite others to the conversation. I don't need a title to do that. The fact that members encouraged this write-in campaign tells me they see value in the way I approach problems, with curiosity, accountability, and a focus on mission.
