ELEVATE YOUR LEVEL OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE
Scott MacMeekin, NCIDQ No. 23669, CIDQ President

I’ve always had a personal affinity for volunteering, it was engrained in me growing up and further cultivated when I attended a college whose motto was ‘That I May Serve’. I believe it’s important to give your time, and it’s an incredible feeling to create an impact on something you feel passionate about.

Discover the many benefits of volunteering

EXPANDING OUR MEMBER BOARD FOOTPRINT

CIDQ is thrilled to welcome two new CIDQ member boards this month – bringing the total number of member boards to 29. And finally...travel has resumed and CIDQ has been busy connecting with credentialing and collateral organizations in the design space, as well as uniting with our wonderful NCIDQ Certificate holders.

Learn who’s joined us and where we’ve been

With the release of the official spring 2022 score results, CIDQ announced the addition of 443 new NCIDQ certificate holders!

2022 Comparative Overall Exam Pass Rates:

IDFX: 53%  IDPX: 60%  PRAC: 54%

Applications for fall will be accepted thru July 31st, 2022. The exam payment and scheduling period is open thru September 30th.

As we approach summer, most part-time legislatures have wrapped up their sessions for the calendar year. This year, there was a great deal of progress made in the advancement of reasonable regulation of interior design, building upon successful legislative efforts in North Carolina and Oklahoma last year. Several states advanced legislation establishing or expanding interior design regulation through at least one chamber this session.
Learn which bills expanded existing title acts

Each month, CIDQ is celebrating the diversity of our NCIDQ Certificate holders, aiming to embrace and foster an environment that is inclusive of all cultures, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, perspectives, and ways of thinking.

Designer Diversity Spotlights are just part of a larger Diversity Corner campaign that is building and will be updated regularly to reflect the current and upcoming celebrations and observances of our interior design community.

Do you know someone who should be featured? Reach out to Kimberly at kwoods@cidq.org for consideration.

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS OF THE PROFESSION?

Do you have a desire to evolve and elevate the reputation of interior design? Do you have the commitment and skill to work diligently with a group of dedicated colleagues?

Share your interests, experiences and some of the reasons our volunteer community appeals to you - for service starting in 2023.

Complete our Volunteer Interest Form by August 31st

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
Lisa Whited, NCIDQ
NCIDQ Certificate No. 7490

Lisa Whited, senior associate at Advanced Workplace Associates, shares her NCIDQ journey, her efforts on the legislative front, and her work on CIDQ initiatives - past and present - that convey the health, safety, and welfare impact of interior design.

Get to Know Lisa Whited

OUT & ABOUT WITH CIDQ
June 2-5 | National Council of Architectural Registration Boards’ (NCARB) 2022 Annual Business Meeting | Austin, TX

Connecting with our member boards, and making new friends, while dining outdoors following an informative day of sessions. Pictured: Ellen White, Licensing Program Officer, Oklahoma Board of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers of Oklahoma; Thom Banks, CIDQ CEO; Leslie Hanska, Executive Director, Oklahoma Board of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers; David Hornbeek, former NCARB Regional Director and architect member of Oklahoma Board of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers; Judith Stapley, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Technical Registration; J. Mark Taylor, Registered Commercial Interior Designer, Oklahoma Board of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers; Michael Kolejka, Architect, Vice Chairperson, Arizona State Board of Technical Registration; and Scott MacMeekin, CIDQ President.

June 13-15 | NeoCon | Chicago, IL

A launch pad for innovation, NeoCon offers ideas and introductions that shape the built environment today and into the future. CIDQ Officers were in attendance, connecting with NCIDQ Certificate holders and allied organizations.

June 20 -22 | NCSL National Occupational Licensing Meeting | Las Vegas, NV


TOGETHER AGAIN!

CIDQ Annual Business Meeting 2022
November 11 & 12
Los Angeles, CA

State and provincial regulatory board staff, their Delegates, and representatives from interior design professional organizations will come together in-person later this year – FINALLY – to discuss CIDQ, the NCIDQ Exam, and issues related to the interior design profession. Attendees will be able to learn key strategic initiatives, exchange ideas and tools, and collaborate with their peers. We can’t wait to get back together!
-President's Message-

I’ve always had a personal affinity for volunteering, it was engrained in me growing up and further cultivated when I attended a college whose motto was ‘That I May Serve.’ I believe it’s important to give your time, and it’s an incredible feeling to create an impact on something you feel passionate about. CIDQ has provided opportunities for me, and many other designers, who are looking to gain networking and leadership opportunities within the industry. Connecting with designers from all over North America and creating wonderful professional and personal relationships was extremely beneficial and rewarding. As practitioners, we’re focused on designing spaces that enhance the quality of life and the human condition. We’re always thinking through a health, safety, and welfare lens to create that impact. As a CIDQ volunteer, you are able to shift that impact to ensuring that those entering the profession are maintaining a high-level of competency. And we welcome those who want to create an impact on the industry to join us.

In April, the Board of Directors returned to in-person meetings at the CIDQ headquarters. I cannot say enough about the benefits of meeting and exchanging ideas face-to-face. While this gathering was favorable, we also recognize the importance of accessibility. This spring, CIDQ launched remote proctoring, providing NCIDQ Exam candidates the option of taking the IDFX and IDPX exams in a convenient location (i.e., home). We are pleased that 28% of spring candidates tested remotely. CIDQ is seeing major growth as an organization and being accessible to all is a big part of that evolution.

As importantly, I’d like to congratulate the 443 new certificate holders and encourage you all to take the next step to become registered, licensed, or certified within your jurisdiction. Use your NCIDQ Certificate as a powerful tool to elevate your level of professional practice!
CEO’s Message

Greetings! It’s my pleasure to welcome two new CIDQ member boards this month. The first is the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA), which joins long-standing CIDQ member board, the Interior Designers of Alberta (IDA) to become our 2nd member board from the province of Alberta. Interestingly, both organizations fulfill a regulatory role for interior designers there. Additionally, the Iowa Interior Design Examining Board joined CIDQ this month, bringing the total number of CIDQ member boards to 29! I hope to make it an even 30 before the summer is over. A warm welcome to you both!

CIDQ President Scott MacMeekin and I had the opportunity to attend the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards’ (NCARB) annual meeting in Austin, Texas in June. The content was excellent, raised thought provoking discussions among attendees, and was a welcomed opportunity to reconnect with many of our shared state board members in a face-to-face setting.

Also in June, President MacMeekin, President-Elect Jason Kasper, and I represented CIDQ at the NeoCon trade show in Chicago. It was so good to be able to meet again in person with the leadership of collateral organizations in the interior design space (ASID, BIFMA, IDC, and IIDA, to name a few), as well as with many NCIDQ Certificate holders. I’ve attended numerous NeoCon’s over the years and the attendee excitement of being back with friends and colleagues was palpable.

In late May, I participated in a joint Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) webinar for our shared Member Board Executives announcing a new ICOR initiative intended to provide member boards greater guidance on the topic of overlapping practice. As you may recall, ICOR consists of CIDQ, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Recognizing there are natural overlaps of practice between the design professions, our goal with this joint task force is to develop a uniform guideline and definition for competent overlap of practice.

Lastly, CIDQ recently joined the Professional Certification Coalition (PCC). The PCC engages in state and federal advocacy, analysis, and thought leadership on legislation affecting non-governmental certification organizations and those who hold or rely on those credentials, including regulators, employers, and
CEO’s Message Continued

the public. We believe the work of the PCC is central to many of the ongoing professional regulation issues and debates and we’re proud to join the many credentialing organizations which comprise its membership.

It’s shaping up to be a busy summer! I hope yours is both productive and fun.
Advocacy Update

Now that we are reaching the summer months, most part-time legislatures have wrapped up their sessions for the calendar year. This year, there was a great deal of progress made in the advancement of reasonable regulation of interior design, building upon successful legislative efforts in North Carolina and Oklahoma last year. Several states advanced legislation establishing or expanding interior design regulation through at least one chamber this session, with two bills expanding existing title acts to include practice rights for NCIDQ Certified interior designers signed into law during the 2022 session.

This year, state legislatures in both Wisconsin and Illinois passed legislation to modernize their existing regulatory frameworks to include the ability for NCIDQ Certified interior designers to stamp and seal construction plans for permitting. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed SB 344 on March 18th. Sponsored by Senator Dale Kooyenga and Assembly Member Cody Horlacher, the new legislation establishes the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) as the bureau in charge of the industry’s certifications.

In Illinois, HB 4715 was signed by Governor J.B. Pritzker on June 10th. It is worthwhile to note that this bill passed both chambers of the Illinois Legislature unanimously. “Interior designers are highly-skilled professionals who must have significant qualifications to pursue a career in the industry,” said bill sponsor Representative Margaret Croke. “This bill will allow them to stamp their design plans for non-structural construction, removing an unnecessary barrier for those in the industry. Interior design is a traditionally female-dominated industry, and I’m proud to lead efforts to ease the challenges they face.”

Several other bills dealing with interior design regulation made progress through the legislative process this year. In Iowa, HF 781, which would expand practice rights in the state to include permitting privileges passed through the House and even went on to be amended in the House. Unfortunately, due to legislative stalemates between the House and the Senate on several of the Governor’s initiatives, this bill failed upon the final adjournment, marking the close of the legislative session. Similarly, bills in Nebraska and Alaska made progress through committee hearings this year, yet unfortunately did not pass before adjournment and failed.

If you have any questions about interior design regulation in the United States and Canada or are interested in getting involved with interior design advocacy, contact Government Affairs Manager Matt Barusch.
Q: Brief intro/What type of work do you do/where do you work?  
A: I provide consulting services to small and large, local and global organizations regarding the future of work and adapting to new ways of working. Essentially, I help organizations help their people have great days at work, wherever they are working. I work literally anywhere and happen to live in one of the most wonderful and beautiful places in the world, Portland, Maine.

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ?  
A: In 1992, Maine created its first professional coalition of interior designers — the Maine Interior Design Association (MIDA) — with a focus to pass legislation to certify interior designers. I was elected as the first president of MIDA and, with the small founding group of MIDA members and a fantastic lobbyist, we were successful in the first legislative session to pass certification for interior designers. That work allowed me to get engaged with CIDQ as a member of the Assembly of Delegates, representing Maine, and serving on the Maine Board of Licensure for Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. Over the years I had the honor of volunteering in numerous CIDQ positions, including as a master juror, serving on or chairing committees, serving as an ambassador for students, and in various board positions, including as President in 2000.

Q: Tell us a little about your most recent volunteering experiences.  
A: In the early 2000’s I worked to create a 3-D “Health, Safety, and Welfare” website (alongside a professional web designer) to illustrate to the public and legislators how the work of an interior designer impacts the public’s wellbeing and safety within a typical office. CIDQ wanted to update that effort so, beginning in 2021, I was invited to work with three other NCIDQ volunteers to create a new interactive 3-D site that illustrates how our work impacts the health, safety, and welfare of people in a restaurant.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified, and why?  
A: I took and passed the exam in April 1989. When I was in school studying interior design in the early 1980s, one of my professors shared that she was preparing to take the exam and that is when I first learned of NCIDQ. As soon as I heard that there was a credential and process to be certified, I made it a goal to take the NCIDQ Exam. Passing the test remains one of my proudest professional achievements in my career. I think the only thing that topped it was receiving the Louis S. Tregre Award in 2017!

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?  
A: Having the NCIDQ Certificate represents knowledge and expertise in a field that —
especially at the time I was entering in the 1980s — was not well defined. When I am consulting on projects now and I meet the designer on the project, if he/she/they have NCIDQ after their name, I know that I am working with a professional who takes their profession seriously. It is simply the mark of a professional interior designer.

Q: What have you learned thru volunteering with CIDQ?

A: I’ve learned soo much! Legislation, advocacy, the ins and outs of psychometrics, the importance of clear volunteer roles and responsibilities, how to use my voice for change, dealing with conflict from groups who oppose change you are advocating for, strategic planning, tactical planning — I mean, seriously, I gained a “degree” in volunteer leadership through my work with CIDQ! Plus, friends — like friends for the rest of my life — all because of CIDQ.

Q: What advice would you give to those considering volunteering their time with CIDQ?

A: Stop considering it and just do it! It is a welcoming group, you will find a place to use your talents, the staff is incredibly supportive, and you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Q: What advice would you give to current students that you wished you had received?

A: I hope you have a professor or mentor that is inspiring to you, as my college teacher was to me. If you don’t, however, that should not be a barrier to setting goals and achieving them. One of my favorite visioning exercises is to write a letter to your future self in 3 to 5 years. Describe in detail your “ideal day” — what type of work you are doing, where you are living, the date you passed the NCIDQ Exam, what is happening in your life. Be specific! Tuck it away and pull it out in a couple of years and surprise yourself with all the great stuff that has happened. I have done this exercise over the years since I was 18 and it is awesome to see what good has come about.

Also, negotiate for more money when you are interviewing for a job. Don’t take what they offer you — always counteroffer. Always.

Q: Has the practice of interior design lived up to your expectations that you had as a student? Any surprises or disappointments?

A: It far exceeded any expectations I had. There really is no limit to what one can achieve in the profession — and the boundaries it crosses gives you so many opportunities. Behavioral science, change management, anthropology, workplace design, conflict management, mediation... on and on — no limit!

Q: Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

A: I can say the alphabet two letters at a time.

Q: Anything else you’d like to share?

A: I recently published a book, Work Better. Save the Planet, which explains the process I use to engage people in workplace change, build employee engagement, and positively impact climate change. I am an environmental feminist who wants to change the world of work for the better: better for people and better for the planet.