



March 1, 2026

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the 16th Street Station Committee of Oakland Heritage Alliance, I fully recommend the following students of Studio 5 in the Fall of 2024 at the Academy of Art University Undergraduate Architecture Program to be strongly considered for the AIA Leadership Awards in the Student Category:

Mark Bega, Alex Boyd, Aric Hope, Evangelina Shutko, Jeffrey Luc, JD Nguyen,
Kouassi Simon Yao, Mohammed Abdulhabeab, Raquel Vera, Allen Rivera

These students demonstrated significant commitment to the architecture and design community through their work to bring more momentum to restore Oakland's landmark 16th Street Station.

On October 5, 2024, the students held a community workshop at the West Oakland Library, ensuring that community voices were heard in future plans for the station. The students provided engaging and three dimensional interactive activities to gather input. These activities showed not only dedication, but communication and technical know how. The students took the insights and created a website (<https://16ststation.cargo.site/>), whose designs have moved the project forward.

On March 9, 2025, the students showed up to connect with the community during a celebration of Oakland Heritage Alliance's listing of the building on the National Register of Historic Places. The students helped in every aspect of this event, from speaking on stage during the program to bringing their interactive materials, including a model of the station which got on the news (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLxv9JaaMAE>).

Additionally, we welcome you at the AIA to tour the station to learn more about it and what these students worked so hard on. Please contact our office and we can arrange a private tour.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Levy
President
Oakland Heritage Alliance