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The Fellow program is a means of recognizing mature designers who have made a significant contribution to raising the standards of excellence in practice and conduct within their local or regional design community as well as in their local AIGA chapter. The areas of education, writing, leadership, and reputation as well as the practice of design shall be given equal consideration in measuring significant contribution.

*Participation*

Participation in this program on a chapter level is voluntary. The greater the number of chapters that participate will increase the perceived value of the designation.

*Designations per chapter*

It is recommended that each chapter honor no more than one Fellow per year and do not need to honor one at all if the local Fellow nomination committee deems no one eligible. However, chapters may use the following guidelines:

- Chapters with 100 or fewer members can award one per year (or one every other year so that the pool of potential recipients in smaller communities is not depleted too quickly)
- Chapters with 100-500 members can award up to two per year
- Chapters with over 500 members can award up to three per year

By limiting this number, the value of this honor becomes greater. Also, because the member retains this designation for life as long as he or she is a member in good standing, the list of Fellows will grow as the program continues.

*Guidelines*

Guidelines for choosing a Fellow are as follows. The honoree should be:

- A practitioner and/or educator with more than fifteen years experience in the profession;
- A member in good standing;
- Making or have made a significant contribution to AIGA;
- Making or have made a positive impact within their local or regional design community;
- Advancing or have advanced excellence in graphic design as a discipline, profession, and cultural force.

In no way shall receiving an AIGA Fellow designation preclude the recipient from consideration for an AIGA Medal at a future date.

*Membership*

To receive the designation of Fellow, an honoree must be a current member of AIGA.

*Recognition*

Chapters should develop a special event to honor the Fellow(s) or include the presentation as a special part of an existing event such as a high profile program or annual meeting. This type of recognition allows the chapter to showcase the recipients and their body of work in

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order to build a sense of heritage for the community as well as make the recipients more visible as role models for young designers. Press releases should be mailed in advance of the event to foster possible recognition in the general public.

At the national level, all new Fellows will be listed on the AIGA website and the names will be presented at the annual Design Legends Gala. This type of recognition, on both the local and national levels, will foster greater prestige for our profession as well as increase the value of the honor.

Chapters must order the Fellow award from the national office. This award will be standard for all chapters participating in the Fellow program. Encased in lucite, the front is reminiscent of the AIGA Medal, and the back reads, "Fellow: In recognition of significant personal and professional contributions to raising the standards of excellence within the design community." Participating chapters will reimburse the national office for the cost of this award (\$90) each time it is given.

*Designation*

Each Fellow honoree will have the ability to use the designation AIGA Fellow ([name], AIGA Fellow) for life, as long as membership is maintained. When presented the designation, a Fellow will receive a formal description of the AIGA Fellow designation.

*Procedure*

The following sample timetable outlines the process that chapters would follow to choose, approve and honor Fellows.

- **January.** Chapter decides that it will participate in the Fellow program this year. The chapter forms a local Fellow Nomination Committee.
- **February.** Nominations are solicited from the chapter membership.
- **February.** The Nomination Committee develops a qualifications list for each nominee, which includes supporting documentation based on the Fellow Guidelines.
- **March.** The Nomination Committee evaluates the nominees' qualifications and references and develops a slate of recommended recipients.
- **April.** The chapter board votes on the nominees. The local board therefore is the determining body.
- **April.** The chapter develops a special event to honor the Fellow or includes the presentation as a special part of an existing high-profile event such as a larger program or annual meeting.
- **May.** Press releases are sent out to announce the event and presentation.

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- **At least three weeks prior to the event.** Chapter orders the Fellow award from national office.

- **June.** The event takes place and the Fellow award and certificate are presented.

Any Fellows designated **prior to September 1 of each year** will be included in the program for the Design Legends Gala.