

**Blake Jackson AIA, LEED Faculty** (*running in conjunction with Steven Burke*)  
Associate/Sustainability Practice Leader, Tsoi/Kobus & Associates

Blake Jackson is a licensed architect, Associate and is the Sustainability Practice Leader with Tsoi/Kobus & Associates in Cambridge, MA. He has over twelve years of experience in retail, hospitality, higher education, healthcare, labs, and commercial structures. Blake plays a critical role in bringing measurable environmental stewardship to TK&A's projects and office management. He earned his B-Arch from Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, GA and his M-Arch in Sustainable Environmental Design from the Architectural Association Graduate School in London, UK. He has been an active BSA member since 2010 (co-chair of the Sustainability Education Committee), is a prolific writer and presenter (chair of the steering committee for the New England Healthy Materials Summit) and is an adjunct faculty at the Boston Architectural College.

**Steven L. Burke, LEED AP BD+C, ID+C** (*running in conjunction with Blake Jackson AIA*)  
Sustainability Manager, Symmes, Maini & McKee Associates

Steven is a Sustainability Manager at SMMA, an integrated, multi-disciplinary design and engineering firm. Steven has guided green building certifications on projects of many different types and sizes, including but not limited to: k-12 schools, higher education facilities, mid-rise and high-rise residential, commercial interiors, retail interiors, and commercial office buildings. Steven is well-versed in the burgeoning materials transparency movement, and has utilized both his presentations and publications for materials transparency advocacy and education.

#### **Blake and Steven's vision for COTE:**

Steven L. Burke and Blake Jackson are both happy to announce their candidacy as co-chairs for the BSA COTE. Both are highly active members of the BSA community, focusing on promoting sustainable design practices within their offices' projects and corporate responsibility.

They see this election as a critical time within the BSA to reunite the current disparate efforts of several members and sub-committees, all with the same focus, back under the leadership of a unified COTE. Today, there are 7 BSA committees with a sustainability mission. While applauding the culture of awareness, the resultant is poor committee participation, non-active membership, too many competing interests and a general lack of direction regarding sustainability - not the highest and best use of an organization with as much potential as the BSA.

Our vision, while expanding our numbers, is to strengthen COTE through fostering active membership amongst individuals and groups already doing great things in and outside the BSA. We will make COTE a welcoming, "think-tank-inspired" guide for sustainability at the BSA and are amply networked to be able to bring together people, events and ideas under COTE's umbrella. We will bring relevant, timely leadership in the following ways:

- Reunite all disparate BSA committees with a sustainability focus under a single umbrella - COTE - which is the most established "brand" in sustainability within the national AIA.
- New COTE membership would be "active". We currently do many things individually; by bringing everyone under the umbrella, we reinforce/strengthen all our interests/activities. Examples of events currently done outside COTE which could be enhanced by a unified COTE include:
  - The New England Sustainable Design Leaders Network (Local, Regional and National)
  - AIA 2030 reporting(spring)
  - Annual Healthy Materials Summit planning/implementation (fall)
  - Organizing invited guest speakers on new and relevant topics (current purpose, as applicable)
- Less conflicts/meetings and more active advocacy/action (as timely)

- Single stop for sustainability lessens confusion for whom to contact regarding sustainability at the BSA, and is enticing to new members who want to be a part of sustainability

If this resonates with you, we would appreciate your vote!

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