



american  
institute for  
conservation

**Preserving Cultural  
Heritage**

## Member Designation Proposal Summary

The Membership Designation Working Group's goal is to update AIC's membership categories to foster a more inclusive institutional culture and acknowledge the wide range of professional practice within the field of cultural heritage preservation. The proposed changes improve the application and evaluation process for our professional membership categories, increase transparency, and encourage professional members to remain current and engaged with our evolving field through required continued professional development. The result will be strong, clear, and meaningful professional member designations that AIC can stand behind and promote, and which members can obtain in a clear, fair, and inclusive process.

Below is a summary of the [Membership Designation Working Group \(MDWG\) Proposal](#). We note the relevant sections for each designation and link associated documents. Member feedback is key to developing a successful proposal. Submit your comments using this [Google Form](#) or by emailing [membership@culturalheritage.org](mailto:membership@culturalheritage.org)

The proposed membership structure is:

- **Member** ([proposal](#) section 1) Other than changing the name from “Associate” to “Member”, there are no additional changes to this membership category. Students, Post Graduates and Retirees will continue as in the current system (with reduced dues in comparison to other membership categories).
- **Professional Member** ([proposal](#) section 2) This designation replaces the current Professional Associate membership.
  - The application process (2.3 -2.4) increases equity and transparency by using a [rubric](#) to ensure consistency in evaluating applications.
  - Evaluations are focused on the applicant's ability to use and abide by the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice in their decision-making process, as outlined in the revised [Essential Competencies](#)
  - Continuing professional development (CPD, [proposal](#) section 2.6) will be required to maintain Professional Member status; two different systems for tracking CPD are being evaluated: [system A](#), in which each CDP activity earns a certain number of credits; and [system B](#), where each CPD activity is equal. Both systems use a five-year cycle for Professional Members to fulfil the requirement. Following member input, one system will be chosen and developed for the final plan.
  - Fellow ([proposal](#) section 3) will no longer be a separate designation but will become a recognition given in addition to the Professional Member designation.

The working group will present a final proposal to the AIC Board of Directors for approval later this year. Following Board approval, ALL AIC individual members will vote on the proposal. Approval by the membership will require a second member vote (of Professional Associate and Fellow members, as required by current Bylaws) to revise the AIC Bylaws so they reflect the approved changes.