

FY22 ANNUAL REPORT

Condensed



NCARB's commitment to going further for our members, customers, and the public is evident in our FY22 Annual Report, which details progress made in each of the six objectives identified in NCARB's Strategic Plan. This condensed report on our FY22 activities provides a streamlined look at efforts to advance NCARB's mission to serve the public through the regulation of architecture.

PROGRAM UPDATES

During FY22, NCARB staff members restlessly worked to improve the quality of its programs and services.

By migrating the delivery of the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) from Prometric to PSI, NCARB provided candidates with immediate benefits, such as more flexibility in rescheduling and canceling exam appointments, dedicated PSI customer service, and more.

In June 2022, NCARB Member Boards passed a resolution ratifying a new mutual recognition agreement between NCARB and its counterpart in the United Kingdom, the Architects Registration Board. This agreement will enable eligible architects to benefit from a more straightforward process to get licensed/registered internationally, helping them to establish professional contacts, seek work, and perform services as registered architects in each country. The agreement is expected to go into effect in the spring of 2023.

STAKEHOLDER TOOLS

NCARB serves a community of nearly 115,000 members, volunteers, and customers across the country. To support their work, NCARB is constantly evolving its tools and resources to ensure the organization stays on top of best practices and continues to deliver quality services.

As part of the migration to PSI, NCARB launched a suite of free practice exams. These new resources offer a full-length, fully scored practice version of each division of the ARE and are an important step toward increasing access to affordable, high-quality study materials.



"The availability of high-quality, free practice exams will help ensure equitable access to exam preparation materials, leading to a more equitable experience for diverse candidates."

— NCARB CEO Michael Armstrong.

NCARB also launched two testing accommodations for candidates who speak or read English as a second language (ESL).

- Additional testing time: 20% of the original testing time for each division added as an extension to the original testing time.
- Word-to-word translation dictionary: For candidates testing at a PSI test center, use of a personally supplied, printed word-to-word translation dictionary of the candidate's choosing that has no definitions, additional notes, or markings added to the text.

DATA ANALYSIS

As a source of exclusive data and insight into the path to architectural licensure, NCARB has positioned itself as a thought leader in the regulatory community, the architecture industry, and beyond. By using data analysis to support informed decision-making at the national, regional, and jurisdictional level, NCARB helps lead impactful change throughout the architecture community.

NCARB by the Numbers

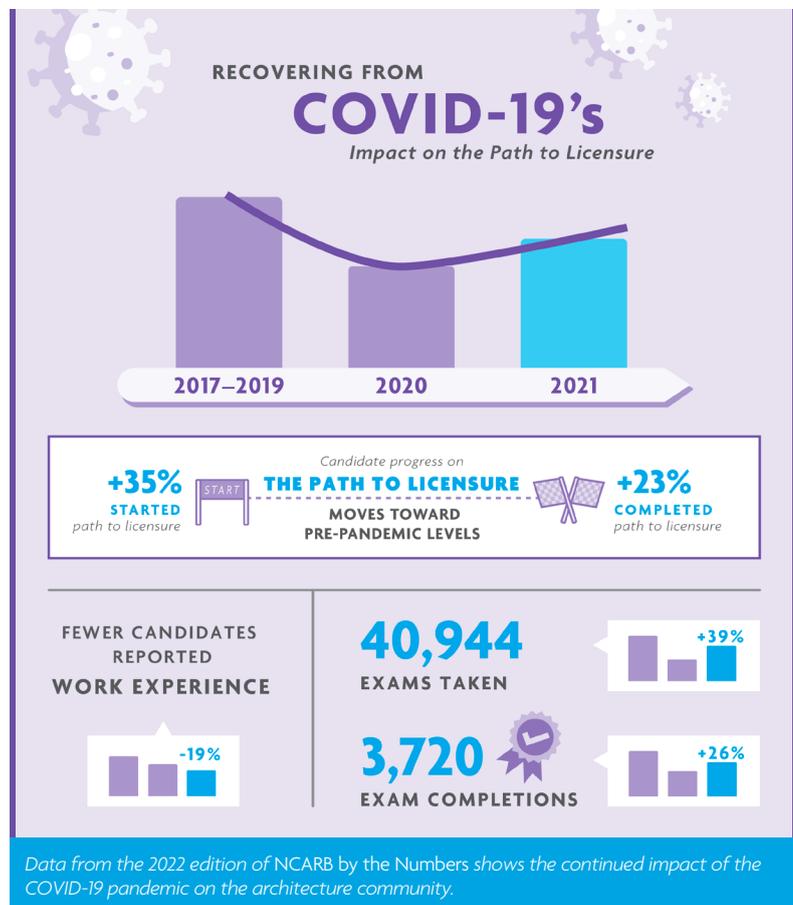
The 11th edition of the annual data report, *NCARB by the Numbers*, included fresh insights into the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the licensure pipeline and shared expanded demographic information.

While the pandemic's long-term impact on the next generation of architects is still unknown, a look at 2022 data shows promising gains in several key areas, such as increased exam deliveries and reciprocal licensure applications.

Baseline on Belonging: Examination and Education Reports

In FY22, NCARB and NOMA released the second and third *Baseline on Belonging* reports on the national licensing exam and architecture education.

In September 2021, NCARB and NOMA released the second full report in the



organizations' joint study on diversity and attrition along the path to licensure: the *Baseline on Belonging: Examination Report*. The report reviews survey data regarding respondents' experiences preparing for and taking the examination, including impediments in the areas of financial support, coaching and mentoring, and overall cost. The pass rates data indicate significant disparities for people of color, women, and older candidates.

The third installment in the organizations' joint study on diversity and attrition along the path to licensure, the *Baseline on Belonging: Education Report*, explores survey data regarding experiences completing a post-secondary degree in architecture—including impediments related to cost, program culture, and curriculum. The data consistently indicates that Black or African American female respondents do not report receiving the same level of support or inclusion as reported by their peers.



“We know that people of color are more likely to stop pursuing a license. The findings from this survey help us identify why. ... Together, we can ensure that the future of our profession better reflects the communities we serve.”

—FY22 NCARB President Alfred Vidaurri Jr., NCARB, NOMA, FAIA

NEW VISION STATEMENT

At NCARB's June Annual Business Meeting, FY22 President Alfred Vidaurri Jr., NCARB, NOMA, FAIA, shared a new Vision Statement for the organization. Designed to encapsulate the objectives of NCARB's Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Statement on Diversity, the Vision Statement will help frame NCARB's work in the years ahead:

Ensuring safe spaces and places for all communities.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT

During FY22, NCARB Member Boards and staff continued to advocate for the importance of reasonable regulation of architecture. NCARB is committed to ensuring its key stakeholders can educate and inform legislators about the value of reasonable regulation.

Through the year, the organization tracked hundreds of bills and regulations and engaged in legislative and political challenges nationwide. Political and legislative challenges will inevitably arise, but the goal of being a thought leader in the regulatory community remains a focus.

RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF ARCHITECTURE

To protect the public's health, safety, and welfare, licensure programs must confirm that architects' competency reflects current practice. NCARB and its Member Boards constantly evaluate how well the path to licensure aligns with the work being performed by architecture firms. In FY22, the ongoing work of NCARB's Futures Collaborative and the Analysis of Practice conducted research that will enable NCARB to anticipate—rather than respond to—the needs of the future.

Analysis of Practice

The Analysis of Practice is a profession-wide study designed to explore the current and near-future practice of architecture. NCARB conducts an analysis of practice every 7-10 years to inform changes to the national programs required for architectural licensure, including the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) and ARE. In April 2022, NCARB launched the final survey, which was taken by nearly 14,000 architects, licensure candidates, and related professionals.



FY22 President Alfred Vidaurri collaborated with NCARB volunteers at the 2021 Committee Summit.

In FY23, NCARB staff members and volunteers will review the study's findings. As NCARB moves into the next phase of this ambitious project, results from the study will help staff members to better understand the current state of architectural practice and may lead to changes to the national licensing programs and standards of the future.

Futures Collaborative

In 2017, NCARB established the Futures Collaborative as part of a multi-year effort to ensure licensure programs and regulation keep pace with an evolving profession. The collaborative is composed of leading architects, experts in emerging technologies, and architectural licensing board members. In FY22, the collaborative engaged with multiple subject matter experts to explore a range of future focused topics, including the interconnectivity between technology and sustainability, progression of computational design, the automation of code compliance, and issues related to climate adaptation.



“The Analysis of Practice study is the mechanism to ensure NCARB continues to align with the ever-evolving practice of architecture. It allows us, as practicing architects, to push ‘dents out of the can from the inside’ by providing valuable feedback on the issues of today.”

—Celestia Carson, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

For more information about any of the updates you read here, please see the full [FY22 Annual Report](#).