

NCARB

FY23 Annual Report

HIGHLIGHTS

The FY23 Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of NCARB's efforts in the past year, as we work alongside the 55 U.S. licensing boards to facilitate architectural licensure. This condensed report provides a streamlined look at a year marked by innovation and thought leadership as we maintain our commitment to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.



PROGRAM & SERVICE EXCELLENCE

ARE® Updates

In FY23, NCARB retired the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) [rolling clock policy](#) and implemented a new score validity policy. Under the new policy, passed ARE divisions from

both the current and prior versions of the exam are considered valid. The new policy effectively ensures candidate competency while removing unnecessary barriers.

Last year, NCARB launched free practice exams for all six divisions of the ARE.

Data collected since the launch showed an average 12% increase in pass rates for practice exam users, with even greater increases seen for certain minority groups.

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"We are encouraged by the [positive impact the free practice exams](#) are having on ARE pass rates. NCARB is committed to creating a more equitable path to licensure, and we believe this is a step in the right direction."

—FY23 NCARB President Bayliss Ward, NCARB, AIA

MRA with the United Kingdom

In FY23, NCARB and its counterpart in the United Kingdom, the Architects Registration Board (ARB), signed a [mutual recognition agreement \(MRA\)](#). Enacted April 25, 2023, this agreement enables eligible architects to benefit from a more straightforward process to get licensed/registered, helping them establish professional contacts, seek work, and perform services as registered architects in each country.

DATA ANALYSIS & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

NCARB by the Numbers

In FY23, NCARB released the 12th edition of *NCARB by the Numbers*, which is based on data from the 2022 calendar year. Each year since its inception, NCARB has evolved the publication, offering new and exclusive insights as the organization expands its data capabilities. The [2023 edition](#) includes an expanded examination section that allows readers to explore the impact of

NCARB's recently launched practice exams on pass rates for various demographic groups.

Baseline on Belonging

In October 2022, NCARB and NOMA released the fourth full report in the organizations' joint study on diversity and attrition along the path to licensure: [Baseline on Belonging: Firm Culture and Early Career Development](#). The report explores the experiences of minority groups working within firms—including firm culture, compensation, growth opportunities, exposure to discrimination, compensation for licensure, and reasons for leaving the profession.

Analysis of Practice

The [Analysis of Practice](#) is a profession-wide study designed to explore the current and near-future practice of architecture and is conducted every 7-10 years. It is NCARB's largest and most comprehensive study undertaken to date, exploring everything from technological advances to cross-professional collaboration and specialization shifts.

After receiving over 14,000 responses to our final Analysis of Practice survey in FY22, we spent the next several months reviewing findings with consultants at Alpine Testing Solutions. As NCARB moves into the next phase of this ambitious project, results from the study will help us to better understand the ecosystem of architectural practice and may lead to changes to the national licensing programs and standards of the future.

"offering new and exclusive insights as the organization expands its data capabilities"

"an in-depth look at the experiences of minority groups working within firms"

INCREASING ACCESS & INCLUSIVITY

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

At the FY22 Annual Business Meeting, NCARB's membership voted to create a permanent [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Committee](#) dedicated to moving forward

NCARB's DEI efforts at the volunteer, leadership, and practice-wide level. The committee is collaborating with the Board to develop a proposed roadmap of DEI goals for the organization to meet by 2030, supporting efforts to gather data from NCARB's members and volunteers to help establish

a baseline for DEI efforts and inform future initiatives. The committee is also developing methods to draw new volunteers and members into the leadership pipeline, with the goal of creating a more diverse pool of individuals who are eligible for national leadership positions in the future.

"dedicated to moving forward NCARB's diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at the volunteer, leadership, and practice-wide level"

Competency and Licensure Process R&D Task Forces

In FY23, President Bayliss Ward created two new task forces exploring what skills should be required for licensure and what the process for developing those skills should look like. The Competency Task Force began researching and identifying what knowledge and skills should be required for entry-level competency, sharing highlights with NCARB's Board of Directors and other committee members. The Licensure Process Research & Development Task Force explored various architect licensing structures approaches that best address aspects of cost, efficiency, flexibility, and equity—including research into licensure pathways used by other countries and professions. In the coming years, they will use the work conducted by the Competency Task Force to begin designing the next version of the path (or paths) to licensure.

ADVOCACY SUPPORT & COALITION BUILDING

Core Advocacy and External Engagement Goals

Throughout the year, we tracked hundreds of bills and regulations and engaged in legislative and political challenges nationwide that had the potential to impact the regulation of architecture or an architect licensing board's ability to carry out its mission.

Cultivating partnerships has remained another fundamental pillar of NCARB's advocacy success. The Alliance for Responsible Professional

Licensing (ARPL), of which NCARB is a founding member, stands as a model of our collaborative efforts with other regulatory bodies and professional societies. ARPL enables us to amplify our reach to audiences and decision-makers nationwide through various channels, such as social media and earned media.

In addition, our alignment with other architecture organizations, such as AIA state chapters and related national regulatory members of the Inter-organizational Council on Regulation (ICOR), underscores our commitment to advancing shared interests through strategic cooperation.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE UPDATES YOU READ HERE, PLEASE SEE THE FULL [FY23 ANNUAL REPORT](#).