

Wheeler Kearns Architects Announces Calli Verkamp as New Firm Principal



Chicago, IL - [Wheeler Kearns Architects](#) is excited to announce that Calli Verkamp, AIA LEED AP, has joined ownership at the firm. The newest, and youngest, Principal has established herself as a vital, creative and hard-working member of the firm, with a passion for the profession, especially institutional projects that benefit the wider community.

Verkamp, a native Arkansan, attended the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas, which granted her an Early Career Alumni Award in 2019. In 2022, she received the prestigious AIA Illinois John Wellborn Root for Emerging Professionals Award.

Since joining Wheeler Kearns Architects in 2013, Verkamp has proven to be a professional and civic leader. She served as Project Architect for The Momentary in Bentonville, Arkansas – a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts venue creatively repurposed from a 70-year-old decommissioned cheese processing plant. After four years of development, The Momentary opened to acclaim in 2020 and has garnered five awards, including an AIA Chicago Distinguished Building Award and a World Architecture News Award for Adaptive Reuse. Verkamp has served as Project Architect on several other award-winning projects, including The Chicago Children's Theatre, the AIC Ryan Learning Center Renovation, and Wicker Park Residence.

Verkamp is an active volunteer and mentor who has worked with various organizations throughout her career, including Girl Forward, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and ACE Chicago. She currently serves as a Director for Roscoe Village Neighbors. Verkamp is currently on the AIA Chicago Board of Directors and co-chairs AIA Chicago's Technical Issues Knowledge Committee.

Founding Principal Larry Kearns, FAIA LEED AP, remarks, "I'm excited to congratulate Calli as our first Millennial owner. Since the day she stepped into our office, she has excelled in every area of practice."

Wheeler Kearns Architects

Based in Chicago, Wheeler Kearns Architects is a collective practice of architects devoted to creating places that embody their clients' purpose, energy, and vision. The 18-person firm designs inclusive spaces for mission-driven organizations in education, the arts, and social services. Since its founding in 1987, Wheeler Kearns has twice been named by a national jury as AIA Chicago's Firm of the Year. The award honors sustained outstanding achievement and excellence in a body of work produced by a firm over time. Learn more at wkarch.com.

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