



Michael Foster

*Signature Program Class of 2000
Principal/Owner, MFA Architecture, Inc.*

Founder and president of MFA Architecture, Michael Foster is an architect and urban planner. His work addresses not only his client's programmatic, financial and mission requirements, but also the formative influences of the environment, the community, the marketplace, and on our culture.

Over the past 25 years, Michael has received local and international design recognition for commercial, institutional, government, and urban design projects. His work has been published in *Progressive Architecture*, *American Planning Association Journal*, the *Wall Street Journal*, as well as many other professional and trade journals. He is a guest speaker at regional and international colleges and universities on topics from sustainable design, urban planning, and innovations in affordable housing.

Michael maintains a Top Secret clearance and was elected to the AIA College of Fellows, a national honor bestowed for outstanding contributions to architecture and to the profession. He is the recipient of multiple AIA Design Awards including the VSAIA Honor Award for the design of the Tibetan Resettlement Community, in Dehredun, India. He is a member of The US Green Building Council and the Association of Preservation Technology. MFA has twice received the ABBIE award, awarded to Arlington's Best Service Business and the Green ABBIE for environmentally sustainable business.

His civic involvement is centered on a belief and commitment that inclusive diversity, commerce, and civic cultural development all go hand in hand. He helps his clients focus on the symbiotic roles of mission programming, urban planning, and sustainable economic development.

Active in the community, having served on the Arlington Planning Commission and as past Chair, he now serves on the Arlington Economic Development Commission, and the SPRC. As a member of the executive committee on the Arlington Task Force on the Future, he helped write the current vision statement for the County.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of John Marshall Bank and believes in the role of community based banking to positively shape the larger community. Michael serves as the chair of the Community Havens board and is the Chair of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. He was in the class of 2000 of Leadership Arlington.

Michael earned his professional degrees in Architecture and Urban Affairs from Virginia Tech, and graduate studies at SCI-ARC in Lugano, Switzerland. He studied behavioral and environmental psychology at St. Cloud State University under a scholarship from the National Science Foundation.