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AIA North Carolina

Mid-Year Membership Update June 2017

*The mission of AIA North Carolina is to serve its members
by enhancing and promoting the profession of architecture.*

Message from AIA NC President



Thank you for taking the time to read our mid-year membership report on current and future activities happening this year. 2017 has been great so far for AIA NC! We have an amazing Board of Directors representing our seven unique sections throughout the state and an incredible staff to carry out our mission. Membership is up, architecture school graduates are finding jobs, and firms across the state are busier than they have been in several years.

Times are good!

After three years of repositioning per AIA National's directive, we are finally beginning to settle into a more efficient association organized around seven core member services. We are now able to focus more heavily on public outreach, advocacy, design, and the future of AIA NC.

Having the opportunity to travel around the state has certainly been a highlight of my year so far! My travels kicked off with a visit to AIA Wilmington to begin planning our annual design conference. Many thanks to the members there who are serving on the committee to help organize a great event in September! I also thoroughly enjoyed attending the membership meetings of AIA Winston-Salem, AIA Piedmont, AIA Asheville, and AIA Eastern to report on "the state of things" at AIA NC with David Crawford. Most recently, I attended AIA Charlotte's membership meeting which celebrated Emerging Professionals and the impressive work, research, and design competitions they are doing in their communities.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to meet so many of you and learn about all the extraordinary ways you are contributing to the places in which you live and work. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Design Conference in September!

Erin Sterling Lewis, AIA
2017 AIA North Carolina President



AIA NC **ACTIVATE** Design Conference

Save the Date! September 13-15, 2017



Mark your calendar for **September 13-15** for the [2017 Design Conference](#) in Wilmington, NC. The theme for the conference:

ACTIVATE: Design | Collaboration | Community Engagement will focus on gaining skills and experiences that you can use to ACTIVATE your firm and community.

During the three day conference, attendees will have the opportunity to tour some of the most dynamic areas in Wilmington, interact with industry professionals through panel discussions and break out sessions, and participate in design charrettes in partnership with the City of Wilmington. All of our participants; architects, sponsors, exhibitors, invited guests and more, are invited to share their skills in charrettes that will center around two growth areas in need of visionary direction and purpose. Charrette participants will leave the conference with an experience they can use to ACTIVATE their own communities through design, collaboration, and community engagement.

Exciting tours (including walking, boat, bus, and kayak!) and seminars will be concurrent tracks as well. Many thanks to the member volunteers of AIA Wilmington and Jen Sisak, AIA Triangle President, who have been working to make the AIA NC Design Conference a success!

Chapter Awards

Design and Chapter Awards will take place on **Friday September 15** on the [Battleship North Carolina](#) followed by live music, fellowship, food, and dancing! Leaders will be recognized in our state for their contributions to the profession, our communities and our architectural heritage.

Continuing Education

The Conference Committee is hard at work collaborating with the Education Committee on details and learning objectives related to CE credits that will be offered in the way of seminars, tours, and a two-day design charrette for this year. Be on the lookout for additional information about the conference and the education opportunities for our time in Wilmington.

Continuing Education

Matthew S. Hart, AIA, Director of Education (Winston Salem)



A small Education Committee has been formed this year to help drive the education mission of AIA NC. This think tank group will focus on **O.W.L.S.** and **CE Academy** content for 2017 and beyond. The Committee will be distributing an electronic survey this summer to our full membership as we look for feedback about your interests for education topics for O.W.L.S. and CE Academy.

Those part of this committee are Hunt McKinnon (Eastern), Rebecca McCormick (Winston-Salem), and Shawn McKeever (Asheville). If you have any ideas, questions, or would like to be engaged with the Education Committee send an email to matth@walterrobbs.com. We would love to hear from you!



O.W.L.S.

The [Online Webinar Learning Series](#) (O.W.L.S.) continues to be a successful offering for continuing education to members across the state. On the second Tuesday of each month, these free, online webinars give access to all membership the continuing education credits they need each year. Plus, if you miss one, these webinars can be accessed online at your leisure for a nominal fee. The Education Committee is spending a majority of their time feeding AIA NC Staff with content and contacts of CES providers.



CE Academy

The CE Academy plans to offer new opportunities for half-day or full day seminars throughout the year, while providing content that appeals to a wide range of our membership. This will include opportunities with other organizations and institutes within the AEC industry. For instance, the Joint Committee Recommendations issued with the latest NC Architecture Magazine are potential opportunities for courses and content.

Advocacy: A Vital Link to the Success of our Profession

Richard Alsop, AIA, Director of Advocacy (Charlotte)



Architects share a unique and valuable skill, that being the ability to use their extensive knowledge of the physical environment to meet the needs of a diverse and complex society. Architects don't limit this skill of Connective Thinking to simply meeting basic needs, they use it to expand the range of possibilities.

However, in a complex society, most all opportunities are created or influenced by the body of individuals we elect to our town councils, state legislature and national offices. As such, engagement with our elected officials, or Advocacy, is an essential component of our profession's success.

Building Relationships

The mission of AIA NC's Advocacy initiative is to encourage and assist members in building a personal relationship with their elected representatives. In addition to Legislative Day, this fall AIA NC will once again present to each section the Advocacy Orientation and Workshop to help build skills and seek opportunities to engage with our elected officials.

Knowledge Teams and Beyond

We continue to seek members who would like to participate in one of the six Knowledge Teams, who read bills introduced into the NC General Assembly which impact our profession. Participation is open to any AIA member who can commit ten hours per year for this work. No prior experience needed. If you are interested in participating, send an email to richard.alsop@arcreview.org.

Legislative Day, April 5 2017

The 2016-17 legislative session provided another opportunity for the entire design & construction community to coalesce and flex its combined influence over public policy in North Carolina government. The AIA with its partners from AGC, ACEC and PENC held successful Legislative Days turning out more than 100 professionals to interact with key legislators at the state house in Raleigh.



Public Awareness: **ACTIVATE**

Thad Rhoden, AIA, President-Elect (Asheville)



We are enjoying the second year of [ACTIVATE](#) becoming a statewide public outreach initiative. We encourage all members to participate in or initiate programs and events that engage the public and help improve our communities through design. Benefits include increased awareness of the value of architects and the opportunity to give back! So far this year, AIA NC has awarded over \$22,000 in grants to five components. Keep applying for ACTIVATE grants as we have \$17,000 to award this year. The board is working to refine the grant application process with the hope of creating an easier and more streamlined process to encourage all sections to apply.

A **BIG** thanks to the 2017 ACTIVATE NC Committee comprised of David Crawford, Keri Dixon, Kate Shelton, Michelle Marks, Mary Fierle, Tanja Bean, Erin Sterling Lewis, Chris Roberts, Tripp Anderson, Shannon Rydell, Brad Williams, Jason Lettie and Charles Gillion.



April Architecture Month

Four of our seven local components used grant funding to participate in this year's April Architecture Month. AIA Asheville planned "Masterpieces, the Most Extraordinary Buildings Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright", an event including an introduction of the documentary by the filmmaker and architecture enthusiast Michael Miner and a public viewing of the film "Masterpieces". AIA Eastern helped local with Disaster Assistance in areas suffering damage from recent storms. AIA Charlotte planned a CANstruction build event and hosted a Charlotte Rail Trail Presentation with David Furman, FAIA. AIA Triangle held Firm Crawls throughout the month in Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill where firms opened their doors to educate and engage the public as attendees explored well-established monthly art walks.



The Missing Middle: A Housing Design Competition

ACTIVATE North Carolina will continue to sponsor a competition to focus on important community issues in which design can play an important role. This fall we will be holding a housing competition for a site in Asheville. Deemed the 6th least sustainable housing market in the country, Asheville is experiencing a growing divide between soaring housing costs and stagnant income levels. Buncombe County, in particular, has a 5,000 unit housing shortage. Such low inventory is driving existing home sales to unsustainable prices, rivaling the trend of several high priced housing markets nationally. The competition encourages a housing type that blends different income levels and demographics to help knit together the fabric of the city. A building boom of multifamily housing is prevalent in Southeastern US cities, but much of the efforts are large-scale and do not work well with Asheville's inherent topography. In addition, Asheville's unique character, history, and blend of socio-economic and alternative lifestyles are not good fits with the bland multi-family housing solutions that are repeated in many cities without much influence of context. More information and entry details will be on the ACTIVATE website by late summer. The international design competition will be released in the fall.



Public Awareness: Member Communications

Chris Roberts, AIA, Director of Public Awareness (Triangle)

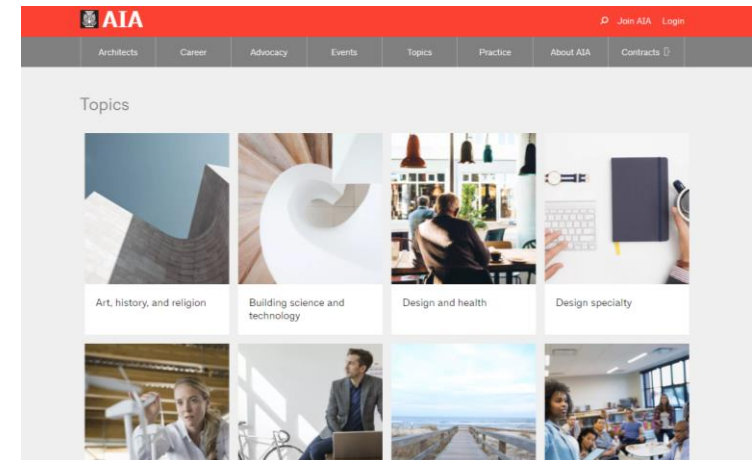


New Website for State and Local Components

In an effort to improve our members' experience, AIA NC, along with input from local membership, has embarked on an initiative to create cohesive AIA websites for each of our components.

As part of AIA National's Digital Transformation effort, AIA National is preparing to launch a new template that mimics the current [website](#) for all components nationwide to use. This will unify the experience and access to resources for our members and the public by creating a consistent platform. The website will be more aesthetically pleasing, easier to navigate and update, and more graphically unified across the board for all components, while still allowing for individualization.

The new template will give each component the ability to easily manage and edit the information posted on their page, and is expected to be available for use this summer. Because the website template is member focused, AIA NC is also working on enhancing AIA NC's [public website](#) in order to make it more accessible to all seven sections.



NC Architecture Publication

Everyone should have received the March edition (Volume 2, Issue 2) of the NC Architecture Publication that focused on the Top 15 AIA NC/Carolinas AGC Joint Committee Recommendations. This was a new topic to cover, and replaced the traditional legislative update publication from years past. If you missed it, all of the recommendations are available by visiting www.aianc.org or www.cagc.org.

You should have also recently received the May edition (Volume 3, Issue 1) which highlights the 2016 AIA North Carolina Design and Chapter Award Winners.



Membership

Juliane Kuminski, AIA, Director of Membership (Triangle)



Member Updates

We have been communicating with all seven components in order to keep up to speed with the many newsletter-worthy activities happening throughout the state. We are putting our energy toward more frequent e-newsletters to our members. In addition, a multi-part series highlighting the value of AIA membership will be facilitated this year.

4 NC Architects Elevated to the **AIA College of Fellows**

The 2017 Jury of Fellows from the AIA elevated 178 AIA members to its prestigious College of Fellows: an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the profession. The 2017 Fellows were honored at an investiture ceremony at the AIA Conference on Architecture in Orlando, Florida this past April. Out of a total AIA membership of over 90,000, approximately three percent are distinguished with the honor of fellowship and honorary fellowship.

AIA North Carolina would like to congratulate and welcome our new fellows:

Ellen Crozat Cassilly, FAIA (Triangle)
Michael A. Harwood, FAIA (Triangle)
Jane Gianvito Mathews, FAIA (Asheville)
John Howard Tabor, FAIA (Charlotte)



Emerging Professionals

Megan Bowles, AIA, Director of Emerging Professionals (Triangle)



All AIA NC sections continue to provide outstanding programs for our Emerging Professionals seeking to grow in their careers. 2017 Initiatives include the Leadership Forum, licensure workshops, and ARE study groups. AIA NC continues to support these efforts by connecting EPs across the state for networking and professional development opportunities.

Leadership Conference

In November, AIA NC will host a statewide Leadership Conference called “**Designing the Career You Love**” which will expose Emerging Professionals to a variety of leadership paths in architecture. Morning sessions will include TED-style talks with AIA NC Fellows who will share stories about their own career paths, a keynote speaker, and career coach who will help attendees craft personal career goals and visions. Afternoon sessions will include an individual career planning workshop, followed by roundtable discussions with AIA mentors for further development. Our state is fortunate to have many accomplished Fellows whose career experiences vary greatly and can serve to inspire young architects to consider traditional and non-traditional ways of practicing architecture.

Public Interest Design

The Emerging Professionals committee is exploring opportunities to engage in “**Design in the Public Interest.**” Plans are still evolving, but the committee is organizing a design focused summer community service outreach program that will benefit a non-profit group in an underserved part of the state, while partnering with local AIA components. Send an email to meganbowles@ls3p.com if you wish to volunteer or share ideas for this effort.

Fellows Committee

Chair Walt Teague, FAIA (Piedmont), has expanded the scope and energy of the Fellows Committee this year. In addition to nominating and supporting candidates for fellowship, the committee is working closely with Emerging Professionals in order to foster mentorship opportunities to young architects throughout the state.



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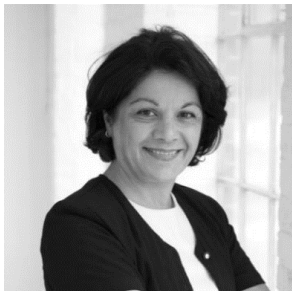
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