Dear AIA community:

There is no higher responsibility – personally or professionally – than protecting the health, safety and welfare of each other and the communities we serve.

Even as we process the disturbing news each day, I encourage you to reflect on how this crisis has exposed what is best about being human. This difficult and uncertain time has reminded us of our shared humanity and inspired us to follow our better angels of compassion, sacrifice, and courage in the face of the unknown. As we navigate those unknowns in the days, weeks, and months ahead, I want you to know this: We will get through this together.

From a business perspective we know that we must continue to do our jobs. But crises such as these have a way of clarifying what is truly most important in our lives: family, friends, and community. Those three elements are what will see us through this uncertain and troubling time. Ultimately, we will get through this crisis and all the challenges ahead if we remember that we are always stronger together.

As we plan for the future and the uncertainty around what that looks like, AIA is making decisions that we'd like to share with you:

First, after careful review AIA has decided not to hold A’20 on May 14-16 in Los Angeles. This was a difficult but necessary decision. As you can imagine, the conference is complex, but with the safety of our participants top of mind, this is the right move. We are looking into rescheduling and other options and will notify everyone as soon as possible. Link to the website announcement and FAQ’s HERE. (FAQ’s also attached below) I ask for your continued patience and understanding.

AIA’s regular calendar of smaller meetings is also currently under evaluation. We are planning for virtual meetings and events or postponement. We’ll be sharing information with specific audiences about those meetings.

More broadly, here are a few ways AIA is responding to help ensure the safety of everyone while maintaining effective operations and high-quality services.

- **Created a COVID-19 Task Team.** AIA created a special organizational task team to recommend and facilitate ongoing operational planning. This group is responsible for reviewing all business and operational functions should employees not be able to be in the building. Frequent communications to employees keep them apprised of the latest decisions and activities.

- **Safety is the only answer.** Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, AIA is evaluating the timing of its own internal meetings as well as expanding telework options in support of social distancing. The association continues to provide a flexible workplace environment to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of AIA employees. We have also curtailed non-essential travel for our staff.

- **Follow self-isolation protocols.** AIA has implemented largescale Telework Practices with the objective of achieving the mutually essential goals of ensuring continuous and effective business operations for the association and to help ensure the safety of AIA employees and their communities.

Like you, AIA is taking this issue very seriously, and we are actively monitoring unfolding events while continuing to follow guidance from CDC, the World Health Organization, and local,
state and federal officials. As AIA’s next steps become clearer (or as clear as possible given the circumstances), we will share them through our various communication channels.

I am optimistic and proud of how this community has come together to do what architects do best: protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public we serve. AIA is more than a professional membership organization—we are a community, and in many ways, a family. And like in our own families, we are doing our best to make the right decisions for you and AIA during an unsettled and troubling time.

Please take good care of yourselves in the days ahead.

Robert Ivy, FAIA