The American Institute of Architects
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Report

from the Strategic Council

From:
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To:
AIA Michigan
AIA MI April Monthly Newsletter

Mission: *The AIA Strategic Council advances the architectural profession by informing the AIA Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. The Council has an outward and forward-focused vision with an emphasis on long-term goals and outcomes.*

What Does the Strategic Council Do? *To learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council, click HERE.*

From the Councilor

April has been a busy month. I've been getting ready for summer: the veggie garden is started, and the boat launch is planned this week. There's also been a flurry of activity in the AIA ahead of the AIA Annual Meeting in June.

In addition to electing new officers, delegates at the June 5th Annual Meeting will vote on several proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments, including new membership categories. An additional bylaw amendment proposed for the automatic advancement to Fellowship of elected officers will be considered directly by the Board of Directors at the May 8th Board Meeting.

I strongly encourage you to attend the upcoming Town Halls hosted by AIA regarding proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments. More information including links to these items are on the following pages of this report. I also encourage you to share your perspective on these topics and upcoming decisions with me and the AIA Michigan Leadership.

Regards,
Patty Boyle, AIA

Council News

FROM THE MODERATOR + VICE MODERATOR

In early March, the Council convened the first Council Assembly of 2024, discussing updates on the Best Practices Committee, and Communications and Elections Sub-Committees. The Communications Sub-Committee is working on a framework and schedule for disseminating Council communications to state boards and the broader membership via monthly reports and social media updates. If you have thoughts on how Council communications can best support your component or membership, please share them with your Council representative.

This past month, representatives from the Young Architect Forum (YAF) members, the National Associates Committee (NAC), and AIAS began participating in Council study groups. This concerted effort between these groups and the Council seeks to cultivate fresh insights and perspectives for the future of our profession while also nurturing a pathway from the YAF and NAC to the Council.

Finally, Ohio Council Representative Hallie Crouch, Assoc. AIA organized a Town Hall session with AIA Component leadership from the state, together with Muza Conforti, Director of Fellows & Strategic Council, and the Council's Moderator and Vice Moderator. This session offered a comprehensive overview of the Council's role, composition, and study group objectives, serving as a valuable platform for receiving feedback and addressing inquiries from state members. We invite all states to reach out should they find value in hosting similar informative sessions within their jurisdiction.

Graciela Carrillo, AIA 2024 Moderator + Josh Flowers, FAIA 2024 Vice Moderator

Special thanks to our Steering Committee members who help guide our work and inform our decision-making process: Brad Benjamin, AIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), Alyssa Murphy, AIA (Communications Chair), Bruce Herrington, AIA (Elections Chair).

WELLBEING RESOLUTION

The Strategic Council voted on April 3rd to support a resolution at the annual meeting this year. The AIA Health and Wellbeing Policy resolution emerged from the work of the Council's wellbeing study group over the past few years. As wellness, health equity, longevity, material hazards, environmental impacts, social determinants of health, biophilia, and many more related issues arise and proliferate; architecture should embody and advocate the enduring values of good health to the public.

The resolution calls for greater integration of wellbeing into the AIA Code of Ethics and the Framework for Design Excellence, promotion of architects' roles supporting health professionals within professional limits, and the promotion of incorporating design and research for health and wellbeing in architecture degree programs.

Please see the attached pdf for a letter of support from the Council and the full resolution.

Institute News

AIA ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

New membership categories will be addressed in a Resolution and Bylaw change that will come up for a vote at the AIA Annual Meeting on June 5th. The Member and Volunteer Engagement Priority Project is a series of initiatives that will position the organization to engage better, serve, and communicate with a broader set of AIA members.

Governance Changes to address inconsistency in process and gaps in current bylaws are being proposed to address termination of membership for misconduct (Chapter 2.132 and 8.5), provide clarity on the At-Large Director appointments to the Board of Directors (Chapter 6.04), and automatic advancement to Fellowship (Chapter 2.42). At its meeting on May 8, 2024, the Board will consider approving amendments to Chapter 2.42 on automatic elevation to Fellowship for elected national officers. These proposed amendments are included in the provided bylaws amendments (noted in blue) and were sent to each member not less than sixty (60) days prior to Board action.

Based on feedback from members, we have developed a list of FAQs to address questions on the proposed amendments to the AIA Bylaws related to the membership category changes **here**. Link to general information:

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
Candidates for the Office of 2025 President-Elect, 2025 Secretary and (1) 2025-2027 At Large Director to the Board are listed on the AIA website here. The official delegate information book will be distributed on May 6th, 2024.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO REVIEW PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
AIA Secretary Britt Lindberg, FAIA, will host a series of Town Hall meetings to present all resolutions and amendments to the AIA Bylaws in preparation for the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the town halls is to facilitate a dialogue about the amendments, answer member questions and address any concerns prior to the Annual Meeting.

More information about Annual Meeting and Town Halls: AIA Annual Meeting. View the proposed by-laws amendments here. See dates and links to register for Town Halls below.

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
May 1 – 3pm ET	Town Hall Meeting–2024 Resolutions	Zoom	Link
May 7 – 12pm ET	Town Hall Meeting–Membership Bylaw Change	Zoom	Link
May 10– 2:30pm ET	Town Hall Meeting–Delegate Accreditation	Zoom	Link
May 15 – 10am ET	Town Hall Meeting–Membership Bylaw Change	Zoom	Link
June 6-8, 2024	Conference on Architecture & Design 2024	Washington DC	Link

For more events, visit the AIA events page at: https://www.aia.org/community/events.

Feedback

We value input! If you have questions or ideas for the Strategic Council, reach out to us at StrategicCouncil@aia.org. To learn more about the work of the Strategic Council, please visit the Strategic Council webpage at AIA.org.

April 12, 2024

Dear AIA State and Local Chapters Leadership,

We are writing you to request your consideration and support of a resolution designed to elevate the value of our profession.

The AIA's Strategic Council is sponsoring a resolution related to architecture's impact on human health and wellbeing. In the coming weeks, the AIA will share the slate of resolutions publicly. However, we thought that you would appreciate a preview of this resolution's intent and language ahead of time, which we have attached for your review and distribution to your constituents.

The basis for this resolution is a product of the Council's 2023 work demonstrating the significant and clear impacts of existing research and the knowable effects that the built environment has on our practice as architects. The existence of this knowledge engenders an ethical obligation to meaningfully discuss its impacts with our clients and act on design decisions related to occupant health and wellbeing – the effects of which will echo for decades to come. This additional knowledge also elevates the value of the professional services we offer, similar to other learned professions such as law or medicine.

The Council recently voted to adopt this language with nearly unanimous support. This resolution will require the AIA to modify certain elements of its operations and advocacy platform, which will require additional refinement before the goals of this resolution are fully manifested.

We respectfully request your support of this aspirational resolution to advance the value of our profession in legitimate and practical ways based on the existing knowable effects of our work at architecture's intersection with health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

AIA Strategic Council Members

Resolution Submittal Form

Complete one form for each resolution submitted.

TITLE: AIA Health and Wellbeing Policy

SPONSOR: Strategic Council

INTENT OF RESOLUTION

The intent of this resolution is to increase AIA members' value to their clients by embracing evolving knowledge and trends in health and wellbeing, by clarifying specific policies, and promoting research-based relationships of architecture's impact on human health and wellbeing. This is an ethical issue and requires related adjustments to AIA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct plus the Framework for Design Excellence. The AIA should embrace and promote architects' roles supporting health professionals plus advocate for the incorporation of health and wellbeing-related research in architecture degree programs.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION (maximum 500 word

WHEREAS. THE U.S. health industry represents $4.5 trillion annually.

WHEREAS. U.S. health disparities diminish longevity up to 30 years in some communities.

WHEREAS. Numerous studies directly link both causational and correlated effects of architecture on human health.

WHEREAS. The World Health Organization defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

WHEREAS. Many architects are unaware of substantial research establishing connections between architecture and wellbeing, and do not rely on this research in daily practice.

WHEREAS. The AIA has directly studied the effects of architecture and health, and for decades had a Knowledge Community focused on architecture and health.

WHEREAS. The 2023 Strategic Council studied the intersection of architecture and wellbeing, inviting several well-credentialed subject matter experts.

WHEREAS. These subject matter experts identified several value domains, including naming architects as '"health professionals," and unanimously urged the AIA to make designing for health and wellbeing, as well as urging reliance upon research as an ethical issue that underpins the Institute.

WHEREAS. The 2024 Strategic Council continues to study this domain as an overlay to all study areas to optimize health and wellbeing effects related to climate, design, equity, and value of architecture.

WHEREAS. The current 2020 AIA Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct prescribes General obligations, and additional obligations to the Public, the Client, the Profession, Colleagues, and the Environment.

WHEREAS. The current 2020 Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct contains no reference to human health or wellbeing as a primary goal of practice, except as conjoined with safety and welfare, or subordinate to and as a component of environmental equity and justice.

WHEREAS. The AIA Framework for Design Excellence makes no reference to rigorous research as a basis for good design, except for applications of lessons from previous projects – a practice unheard of in medicine, law, or other learned professions.

WHEREAS. The AIA continuing education requirements emphasize health, safety, and welfare (HSW), but many programs only focus on passive and active safety alone rather than the generative or long-term effects of health and wellbeing related to design.

WHEREAS. The AIA's role is to identify broad opportunities of professional benefit, and advocating for architects as leaders in health and wellbeing increases public value of the architecture profession.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The Board and National Ethics Council will add elements to AIA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct requiring a focus on wellbeing, promoting related discussions with owners, and utilizing health and wellbeing-related research pertinent to proposed design interventions.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The Board will modify the Framework for Design Excellence to include Research for Health and Wellbeing as an action.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The AIA will promote architects' roles supporting health professionals within professional limits.

LET IT BE RESOLVED. The AIA will promote the incorporation of design and research for health and wellbeing in all architecture degree programs with various educational organizations, such as the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), and the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), and the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS).

Sponsor contact authorized to answer questions and approve changes suggested by the Resolutions Committee:

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