AIA Michigan President's Message

May 31, 2024

Greetings fellow AIA Members. When I became president, I was told by several past presidents that the year was going to go by quickly. At first, I didn't fully believe how fast it was going until this month. The activity within AIA National along with AIA Michigan business over the last month has ramped up mostly in preparation for convention along with the duties of voting on bylaw amendments and national candidates. If you are planning to attend the AIA National Conference in Washington, DC, I would love to connect with you and demonstrate to the rest of the country that AIA Michigan has a collective voice. I must say I am truly grateful for the support of our board members, past presidents as well as dedicated staff. It is a team effort.

As part of my agenda to demystify or breakdown some of the barriers associated with our organization, I wanted to say a few words in regard to MAF (Michigan Architectural Foundation) and its relationship to the AIA. I often get asked, who's the MAF? What do they do? What is their purpose? I too had similar questions before I was introduced to the MAF and later was voted to be one of the trustees of the MAF board. Simply the MAF was created to help promote Architecture in Michigan. The mission is not much different than the AIA; however, the focus of the MAF is dedicated to advancing awareness of how architecture enriches life. As the AIA is focused on supporting the architect and our profession at large the MAF supports architecture by awarding student scholarships, funding preservation building projects, funding awareness (podcasts, books, media programming) and funding early education programs. The dedicated board that consists of architects, supporters, industry professionals and educators is focused on raising money, maintaining our endowments, identifying needs, reviewing proposals, and ultimately giving it all back and then some to promote architecture in Michigan. It's been a pleasure serving on the MAF board as I see a real impact made with the funds we raise and to see how many people, students, projects and architecture it enhances.

In regard to upcoming AIA events, please check your emails and our website for registration information for our 81st Annual Mid-Summer Conference. The planning committee has put together an excellent program with AIA and AGC speakers and projects with many AIA CEU credits available. The Mid-Summer conference is our grand event that connects the Architects with the Associated General Contractors in a partnership that we've found is very unique to Michigan. The event will be held again at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island from August 1-4. If you plan on attending, please hurry to book your room, they sell out quickly.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you all again for taking the time to read this message. AIA Michigan is running strong with a full agenda of conferences, activities, and continuing education planned for 2024. Keep a lookout for our calendar of events.

Cheers,



Todd Drouillard, AIA | 2024 AIA Michigan President