



President's Message

November 30, 2022

With elections now complete for both our organization and government, leaders are primed to implement strategic plans for fiscal and socio-economic progress. While AIA Michigan did not run the gamut of debates and ads – thank goodness – we did commit to exploring consolidated services while providing great programs and membership value with greater consistency across the State. At the October Leadership Retreat and Annual Meeting we shared best practices for outreach and education, and renewed discussion of how to make those activities available to a bigger audience. Not all work though. Seems like the golf outing fundraiser was a big hit too.

The topics of partnering and sharing echo discussions held during development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), implemented a few years ago. The MOU outlines how revenue is allocated throughout the State, independent of the local dues. We owe it to members to explore the efficiencies of collaboration while also providing flexibility to champion unique demographics of our constituents.

That balancing of interests factors into advocacy, programming, and recognition modules of AIA Michigan. 2023 will be especially challenging for components struggling with membership loss and unfilled leadership roles. We must see how renewals sort out then hit a couple of hot topics quickly. We want to hear from you and look forward to your participation in a series of ~~leadership~~ membership calls throughout the year. (Yes, the strikeout is intentional.) We hope you can join us for a few online chats led by various Board members. Keep an eye on Monday Minutes for the robust series of statewide links and updates shared weekly.

Speaking of robust, have you noticed the AIA Michigan Job Board? Wow! If there is one topic most of us agree on it is the need to cultivate future generations of architects by showcasing and exploring the profession *with* them. That Job Board reflects the myriad of opportunities available throughout the State and speaks to the unique mission of our member firms. While we have much to do, we also have much to be proud of. Let's share more success stories of K-12, collegiate, and emerging professional development. If that is your particular interest then please reach out to cathy.mosley@aiami.com or your AIA Michigan representative to learn more about such mentorship opportunities.



Or, chat with the Board at the AIA Michigan Holiday Reception on December 15, 2022, at the offices of Frank Rewold & Sons in Rochester, Michigan. Get details and register on the website aiami@aiami.com. In support of Rochester and other communities please consider supporting this year's charity, Blessings in a Backpack, at [Blessings in a Backpack](#). You can direct your contribution to a local school district to ensure that kids in your community have access to nutritious meals even when not in school. Rochester citizens initiated this program and guided dozens of other Michigan districts in developing their programs. Sound familiar? Outreach, collaboration, mentorship, community, camaraderie, best practices, and kids. What a great example! We can do it too!

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy".

Cindy Pozolo, FAIA