

AIA Detroit Update

February 28, 2023

The leadership of AIA Detroit have been working very hard over the last 18 months, creating a new Strategic Plan for our organization, guiding our organization's efforts over the next three years and beyond. To elevate the practice of architecture and empower the communities of Metro Detroit, our Strategic Plan focuses on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Resiliency, the value of Membership, excellence in Practice, and issues of Advocacy that can better shape our environment.

The initiatives AIA Detroit intends to pursue under this plan include drastically increasing the diversity of our leadership and membership to reflect our greater community, ensuring that we provide easy-to-access ARE-related materials and training for those seeking licensure, and increase the legislative voice of AIA Detroit and the architects of Southeastern Michigan.

AIA Detroit also intends to increase visibility of local resiliency efforts, initiatives, and tools, and form partnerships and liaisons to improve local community resilience and hazard mitigation issues.

One project that is already underway is regarding the pipeline opportunities for students and young professionals: AIA Detroit has implemented two scholarships for current BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and/or women students who wish to become architects, as we aim to have our profession better reflect our diverse chapter community! If you know someone who is eligible for these scholarships, please let them know the deadline is April 14th!

AIA Detroit leadership recognizes that formal participation with the local universities is essential to our student outreach efforts, providing opportunities for AIA Detroit leadership to be a part of school Career Days, and offering coordination with the local collegiate AIAS/NOMAS chapters. The Chapter also offers free/low-cost options to our professional events, like tours and the annual Celebration of Architecture, which offers students the ability to network with those they will eventually be working with in Metro Detroit. We hope that the more interaction our chapter members have with the university students, the more likely they will stay within the Michigan practice of architecture.

Our 2023 Christopher Kelley Leadership Development (CKLDP) cohort just kicked off their season of training sessions, with 13 individuals from across the state of Michigan coming together every month to significantly build upon the leadership skills developed in the academy and early practice. AIA Detroit recognized the gap in the currently available opportunities for young and emerging professionals, across a range of disciplines, to advance their leadership skills in areas like practice management, business development, contract law, civic engagement, and collaborative practice,

so the Detroit Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program was started in 2017 to help aid in that demographic of our profession.

AIA Detroit will be releasing the 2023 call for Honor Awards on March 1st! The 2023 Celebration of Architecture is scheduled for September 21st, and we are so excited to see the people and projects being nominated this year! As many of you know, the Celebration tends to host nearly 1000 industry people every year, and we use it to not only award our own community of architects and designers, but also to highlight allied organizations and honor those who have recently become licensed! Projects and Recognition nominees are due in May, with interviews of the winners taking place in mid-June. If you have any questions regarding our awards call for entries or the Celebration of Architecture, please contact AIA Detroit's Executive Director, Lauren (lauren@aiadetroit.com).

Our chapter consistently has continuing education (CE) events every month, including building codes, computational design, BIM, building enclosures, and tours, so be sure you are signed up for our newsletters to stay up to date! Our Building Enclosure Council has their next CE program on Steel-Framed Curtainwalls on March 20th, so be sure to RSVP soon! Expect to see registration soon for a couple all-day CE programs in April on 2015 Exit Systems & Smoke, 2015 Fire Partitions, and Building Restoration. Plans are also underway for our first tour of 2023! As always, AIA Detroit works diligently hard to ensure its membership recognizes the value of being an AIA member. Through activism, equity, resiliency, design excellence, and education, we hope to see you at some of our events this year, and we thank you for your membership as we move forward to help improve the communities of Metro Detroit.