



President's Message

May 31, 2023

This month kicked off with an engaging Leadership Call where we spent time discussing the idea of an alternative path to licensure in the state of Michigan. There was great participation and conversation on the call from architects around the state. It was important to many that any alternative path to licensure should be careful not to weaken the licensure process. One alternative option to our current education and work experience requirements would allow a four-year degree in architecture along with additional work experience beyond that currently required. There was a consensus that no matter what modifications were explored within the education and work requirements, passing the ARE Exam must remain in place. This engaging and important conversation will continue as we seek an optimal solution.

I'd also like to take a moment to point out to membership that there are several opportunities to get involved with AIA throughout the year that you may not be aware of. This month there were a couple those events that took place, one by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) and the other by the Michigan Architectural Foundation (MAF). Even though AIA Michigan didn't host them, they were full of AIA Michigan members and filled with opportunities to get learning credits.

The MHPN annual conference was held on Mackinac Island earlier this month. AIA Michigan works with MHPN to ensure that architects attending the event have opportunities to obtain qualified learning units. This year's conference was a great event. In addition to the wonderful weather, there were ample and meaningful educational opportunities both in the session and tours offered. If you've never attended this conference and your practice has a hand in preservation work, this is something you should strongly consider attending next year.

MAF held its 21st Annual Scholarship Fundraiser golf outing. Over the years, I've had opportunities to participate with the MAF scholarship committee in the review and awarding of scholarships to students across the state. This has truly always been both an honor and a pleasure. This was my first year attending the fundraiser, and I had a fantastic time at a great venue. You may not be a golfer, or have the means to attend this fundraiser, but a donation in any amount would assist students across the state that are passionate about architecture to achieve their educational dreams. Additionally, AIA Michigan and MAF are collaborating on effectively connecting with junior high and high school students, making them aware that architecture is an option for them, along with providing them with the knowledge they need to navigate through the educational process. I hope to have an update for you about this later this year.

Paul Haselhuhn, AIA
AIA Michigan President 2023