



The American Institute of Architects

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Happy June to all of our Michigan AIA Associate Members!

First, I hope that everyone finds themselves happy, safe and healthy as we move into June. The past few months have been trying and unprecedented for all of us. While I am excited to see us move towards a more normalized life – both personally and professionally – I urge all of us to be mindful of what recent events have taught us. Let us continue to maintain the health and hygiene habits that were stressed during this pandemic, appreciate experiences that we often take for granted, and most importantly, cherish all people – known and unknown to us – that surround us and make-up our community.

To this end, I want to stress that we are all a people – a singular human race. Let us remember and go-forward knowing that differences in race, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, socioeconomic standing and so-on are what make us diverse and unique. These differences are meant to be celebrated, shared and learned from. We have a responsibility as aspiring and young architects to build stronger communities – not only physically but emotionally. Buildings are not our profession, simply the medium in which we practice. People – that is our profession. Below I have shared a statement released from the AIA National Associate Committee in the wake of the death of George Floyd.

Our committee is deeply saddened by the recent current events and our hearts go out to the families and friends of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the many other black Americans who have been senselessly murdered.

Our country and our communities are facing such hard times. There continues to be injustice, inequity, and indifference in our country. And there is pain, anger and frustration felt in waves in every corner of this country.

We as a committee of aspiring licensed architects, designers, students, emerging professionals, and senior professionals have the responsibility to always contribute to the welfare of all communities and cities.

Within our Associate AIA community and beyond, we must always strive to increase diversity and we must always continue to be brave to banish racism and fight systemic bias. The future of our committee, the profession, our communities and our country depends on this. Together we must listen to one another. Together we must learn from one another. And together we must build a better just and equitable world.

Secondly, I want to remind everyone that registration is now open for the AIAMI Mid-Summer Conference in Mackinac! After months of us all being being quarantined, this is an opportunity for us to come together to enjoy the island and one-another as we deepen our knowledge and network professionally. As anyone who has ever attended this wonderful weekend conference will tell you – there is nothing quite like it. For more information on the conference – or to register – visit the AIA MI webpage. I hope to see many of you there!

In closing, my hope is that we all come together and do better. Moving forward as one community, we have the ability to do amazing things. I wish everyone a happy, safe and warm Michigan summer. I ask, as always, that you please feel free to reach out with me with any questions or concerns that you might have. Hope to see you all around this summer at some of our events!

Christopher Stefani, Associate AIA