

Hi folks,

2021 brings a new year with new resolutions, new aspirations, and hopefully a post-covid era. 2020 was rough in many ways but we made it through it and it's time to bounce back in stride with swagger. With the first month out of the way, we already have a lot to look forward to in the months ahead so let's go over a quick preview.

First, the Young Architect's Forum just held their first virtual NAC YAF Annual Meeting ever. Holding a 3 day long virtual meeting for 80 people is no small feat but we pulled it off. The important outcome of the meeting was that our focus groups are now all aligned to put forth the latest efforts in addressing JEDI, Climate Action, mentorship opportunities, and much more. We had the pleasure of talking to the 2021 AIA President Peter Exley and he stressed the importance of our role as designers to push for sustainable design. In his words, "Good design and bad design cost the same, but in the end good design pays more dividends."

AIA MI also had the pleasure of meeting with representatives from NCARB recently to not only hear about the latest developments from them, but also for us to voice our questions and concerns. The two main takeaways for me were hearing that after a long awaited update on the cut score process, NCARB believes that the scores that have been held for quite some time will be released early February. Also, as of Dec 2020, Prometric announced that there is online proctoring for those who want to take an exam remotely. Although this is great news, not everyone has the ideal environment for testing remotely. The testing procedures are still strict for obvious reasons and the requirements are published on Prometric's website. With that said, if there are any firms that would be willing to set up a testing space within their office, then I can communicate this back to those testing so that they know these options are available. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, in my last newsletter, I mentioned a Digital Meet & Greet between those who are seeking employment and a number of well-known firms. This isn't meant to be a nail-biting interview, but rather an online opportunity for emerging professionals to ask any questions they have that would help them land that position they've been seeking. An official invite will be coming out very soon for several dates. We already have great interest just by word of mouth but if there are any firms out there that would like to sign up for one of the upcoming dates, please email me at jjackons@ghafari.com and I will lock you in for that date.

With that said, I hope that everyone has a great 2021. Please reach out to me with any questions/concerns you have.

Till next time,

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