

AIA Michigan creates a Strategic Plan for the organization and that plan is revised annually at a minimum in order to be sure that we focus on those items that are deemed to be most valuable to the organization and its members. Each year we are reminded that one of the most important activities of the state organization is that of advocacy with the State legislature to provide information to the legislators and to lobby for laws and legislation that help and protect design professionals and also guide the state toward a better and healthier built environment. AIA Michigan's efforts are typically combined with those of registered engineers and Land Surveyors (AELSC) in a joint lobbying agreement. Those efforts are culminated in the annual Legislative Day efforts each spring. This year the virtual Legislative Day was attended by 138 professionals, 42 were architect/associates, and they met with 109 legislators. We thank those that attended.

I have noted with others that the lobby topics have not been of particular interest to the architects who attend. The Government Affairs Committee spearheads the advocacy efforts on your behalf. The GAC requested an advocacy agenda this year so that they were sure to focus on issues that were important to membership. Rather than a simple Board discussion about the necessary items, this is my personal request, you, the members, to provide your input to this discussion. The Michigan Board has requested a list of proposed discussion or legislative topics at the local level. Each local section or chapter has been asked for input on what topics are most important to them to be forwarded for a larger discussion. So, my request is to be aware of the desired outcome and provide your personal thoughts to your local leadership for documentation and discussion.

We are reminded each year how important the statewide advocacy efforts are to you our members and that makes this effort all that much more important. We want to push forward those issues that are important to our profession, our environment, and our state's resiliency issues. As architects and design leaders, we should be educators and shepherds of the built environment. We also need to monitor and protect our roles in the process of maintaining, improving, and growing the built environment. I urge you to provide your thoughts to local leadership on how we should address these with our state leaders.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful input,



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