AIA Michigan

President's Message

May 24, 2022

I am writing this during a coast-to-coast trip in which record high temperatures fast forwarded me into the middle of summer – or so it seems – as this year continues to fly by. With the Institute's business meeting and 'A22 Conference on Architecture just a few weeks away, I look forward to connecting with peers from other Large States and advocating for AIA Michigan members and priorities. We have a great slate of candidates vying for National Board of Director leadership positions and just one resolution on the agenda. Component conference calls and position statements reiterate the two priority goals of our organization: equitable, diverse, inclusive practice, and accelerated movement toward responsive, resilient, sustainable designs.

Here in Michigan, we continue to use those goals and our own strategic plan to validate everything from Honor Awards criteria to programming and funding of committee work. We are pleased to share that our AIA Michigan committee for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) will be offering a panel discussion later in the year to share insight into how to implement J.E.D.I. initiatives into firm culture and policies. Our peer organization, Michigan Architectural Foundation, is once again a sponsor of NOMA's summertime Project Pipeline Camp programs in Kalamazoo and Detroit. Details are available at www.nomadetroit.org/project-pipeline Complementary yet veryunique programs working toward the common goal of a better profession.

Please continue to reach out to us with even more great ideas, programs to share, volunteer opportunities, and needs within your components. Continuing education opportunities in 2022 are as varied as our practices and market segments. Check out Monday Minutes or aiami.com for technical seminars, PSMJ project management training, Honor Awards and Midsummer Conference details, all in the next few months.

And, as you plan your summer schedule, I hope you also carve out time to experience unique spaces and places that COVID hid us from. As I was exploring Arlington, Virginia just a few days ago I came across the H-B Woodlawn school. Now in its third year of operating in a new building, I was intrigued. Inspired. Not all are, but I was. 'Sure doesn't look like a school'….but then again, the innovative design, green roofs, neighborhood park, and community outreach sure *do* resemble the work we do here in Michigan. Let's talk about that next month. Please share your stories, invite us for a tour, inspire us with your creativity. Show us *your* 'Now that's unique!' design. Let's start by seeing your great work, and you, at Honor Awards on June 17th.

Wishing you safe and fun explorations in the months ahead!



Cindy Pozolo, FAIA