



President's Message

January 31, 2023

I hope you are all enjoying winter. I find that having things I enjoy doing during each season helps me to cherish the days in lieu of just waiting for what's next. Let me take just a moment to introduce myself. I was born in Midland and still live there today. My journey took me on an interesting path to becoming an architect by way of the culinary arts. That's a story for another time, but ultimately, I ended up in architecture. Today I practice in Saginaw and have spent my entire career with WTA Architects (Wigen Ticknell Associates) where I've been fortunate to work with great people and do a variety of fulfilling work. I began to get involved in AIA some time ago. First with the Saginaw Valley Chapter, then spending time on the APAC and Government Affairs Committees, and ultimately, I ended up serving on the AIA Michigan board where now I'm honored to serve as President.

I am thankful to the many who have come before me as president. In the past few years alone, their leadership has guided us through the pandemic, stabilized our finances, and advanced our mission to our members. But, as with all things there's still work to be done. In 2023 we will continue to improve communication with leadership and membership through expanded leadership calls. There are 6 total leadership calls planned that will provide membership with current information about what is happening with AIA while seeking input about what is important to you. Look for this year's first leadership call in late February where we will report on the AIA Leadership Summit (formerly Grassroots) and touch base on our upcoming Legislative Day to be held March 3rd.

Finally, this time of year, we begin the call for Design & Honor Award submissions. This year there are two building awards that stand out as unique. Unique because all building projects submitted may be considered for these awards, and both projects will be judged utilizing the AIA Framework for Design Excellence. One award is the Sustainability Award, and the other is a new award for 2023. The new Community Impact Through Design Award will recognize projects that make a lasting impact on a local community. By focusing on the fact that architecture should be about something larger, broader, and more than itself, this award is about making our communities better and impacting lives. Look for further information in the Honor Awards submissions.

Paul Haselhuhn, AIA
AIA Michigan President 2023